

Sport on nine pages

Full details of all the Boxing Day events and results, pages 17-25

£64,500 holiday

Your chance to win a round-the-world trip for two, page 29

Bernard Levin

How John Osborne's genius turned rage and hatred into great plays, page 12

20P

# THE TIMES

No. 65,148

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27 1994

Islamic terrorists killed, but all 170 passengers rescued after 15-minute gun battle

## French police storm hijack jet

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN MARSEILLES

FRENCH anti-terrorist police yesterday stormed the hijacked Air France Airbus at Marseilles airport, killing the four terrorists who seized the jet in Algiers on Christmas Eve and rescuing all 170 people aboard alive.

The four terrorists of the Algerian Islamic Armed Group (GIA) died in a textbook assault as night fell on the waterside airport, 14 hours after the aircraft had landed from Algiers. In a battle that lasted some 15 minutes men from the GIGN Unit of the gendarmerie fought the terrorists aboard the crowded airliner parked only yards from the control tower.

Thirteen passengers were wounded or injured in the

based in the control tower, headed by Hubert Blanc, the regional prefect of Marseilles. The order to attack came after the hijackers opened fire on the control tower.

The attack began when the black-clad commandos approached the aircraft from behind and prised open the rear doors on both sides. Squads of GIGN men leapt from buses and entered the plane, throwing stun grenades and racing to the front where all four hijackers were stationed. They burst into the cockpit where the captain was being held and in a firefight killed the terrorist chief.

Crew leapt out of the broken windows of the aircraft flight deck, as some 50 passengers slid down the emergency exit chutes, some of them sustaining injuries.

Ambulances took injured and exhausted passengers to Marseilles hospitals as police checked the identities of those on board in case terrorists were hiding among them.

The operation marks a triumph for the policy of M. Balladur and in particular of Charles Pasqua, the hardline Interior Minister, who has been waging a highly personal war against Muslim extremists and those from Algeria in particular. M. Pasqua said he considered the operation a great success "given the risks that we were running".

Passengers last night relived the horror of their ordeal as they sipped coffee with police who helped rescue them. They spoke of the politeness of the young hijackers. "They were incredibly kind. Butler would not have melted in their mouths," said Said Kherbouche, 57, a French citizen of Algerian origin. "You would have taken them for Air France stewards, they were so well dressed."

Passengers said the hijackers had attempted to indoctrinate them with the ideals of their cause. Danina Mansur,



French commandos storm the Air France Airbus at Marseilles airport yesterday after it was forced to fly there by Muslim extremists who hijacked it in Algeria

### Pasqua victory in political conflict

The storming of the hijacked airliner has vindicated Charles Pasqua, the powerful French Minister of the Interior, who has consistently argued for a tough approach to Islamic fundamentalism while Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister, has urged dialogue. Page 9

meté and the evacuation. Three crew, including the captain, were injured, and nine gendarmes, one seriously.

Within an hour of the assault, which ended a 50-hour ordeal for the passengers, Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, hailed the "exceptional conditions, the courage and efficiency of the operation". Taking full responsibility for the decision to mount the assault M. Balladur said: "France will fight terrorism inexorably and will not yield to blackmail wherever it comes from."

The operation was authorised early in the day by M. Balladur and run by a team

who stayed on board with her husband and two daughters after other women and children left in Algiers, said she and her girls had been ordered to cover their heads in keeping with Muslim law. "But they were very nice boys," she said.

Passengers said the assault took place with lightning speed. "One minute the door opened, there was a blinding flash, they yelled for us to get our heads down," said one of

the 40 French hostages. "If I hadn't got it down a split second later I would have had a bullet through the head."

M. Balladur said he had set two priorities when he returned on Christmas Day to Paris to manage the crisis. These were to demonstrate that France would not tolerate terrorism and to do everything for the safety of the passengers. He said he had told the Algerian government that

France would welcome the aircraft which was seized while on the ground at Algiers on Saturday morning.

Three people were killed in Algiers including a French Embassy cook whose murder early yesterday morning forced the Algerian authorities to allow the aircraft to leave. The Algerian Interior Minister yesterday launched an extraordinary attack on the aircraft's captain, saying he

had sabotaged a plan for releasing all the hostages on Saturday and accusing him of siding with the terrorists.

France has become the prime target of the Muslim extremists of the Islamic Salvation Front and the GIA, its more violent sister group. In a communiqué the GIA said it had mounted the operation to punish France for supporting the Algerian Government. The hijackers had not made

any clear demands except to be flown to Paris to hold a press conference. It was clear when they arrived at Marseilles that M. Pasqua had no intention of allowing them to refuel and fly on to Paris.

Major Denis Favier, the officer who led the assault, said he had had to move very fast with an emergency plan because he was not sure of where the hijackers were in the aircraft. He had ordered

his men to attack three points simultaneously, moving in from the rear.

"Most of the terrorists were holed up in the cockpit... we were met there by automatic fire and grenades... they opened the door from time to time to lob out grenades at us... we had six wounded in the front of the plane... that was the most difficult bit, it was out of the question we would let them out of the cockpit."

## Blair backs plans to levy lifetime tax on graduates

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour Party is considering proposals for a graduate tax to help to pay for the escalating costs of higher education.

Under the plans, graduates would have to pay between £5,000 and £8,000 throughout their working lives towards the costs of their university education. The move, backed by Tony Blair, marks a significant shift for Labour and could jeopardise attempts to shed its high-tax image. It also risks alienating middle-income voters and leaving MPs. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, is looking at a number of options to help to fund an expansion in

higher and further education. He is said to favour a graduate tax, but other schemes, including a more limited surcharge on National Insurance contributions, are also being studied. A paper is expected to be drawn up by the spring, which will go to next year's party conference before becoming policy.

Twelve months ago, Jeff Rooker, the former higher education spokesman, was sacked from the front bench after drawing up a paper supporting student charges. The document was thrown out by John Smith, the former Labour leader, after deep divisions within the party and concern about the impact on middle-class families.

When the idea was revived by the Social Justice Commission two months ago, Mr Blair indicated that he was keen to reconsider the issue. The commission put forward three

options, including a National Insurance surcharge, but all schemes ended once the charges had been raised. Under the plan being looked at by Mr Blunkett, the tax would be triggered at a certain income level, expected to be much higher than the £14,500 now used for student loans. Employees would be expected to pay tax throughout their working lives, either through income tax or as a National Insurance surcharge.

Another option is confining the levy to higher-rate taxpayers only, but imposing it on all high earners rather than just graduates. This would be more risky electorally, but would raise more money. There has been no decision yet on whether the charges should cover maintenance and tuition. Continued on page 2, col 3

Fight for cash, page 4  
Leading article, page 13

### Yeltsin offers to withdraw

President Yeltsin yesterday offered to withdraw Russian troops from around Grozny, the Chechen capital, and said it was time to end Moscow's military campaign there. He also said he was prepared to resume peace talks with Chechen leaders. Page 7

### Stewart breaks a finger in Test

England's tale of injury and illness on the tour of Australia continued yesterday when Alec Stewart, vice captain and reserve wicket-keeper, broke a finger while batting in the second Test. The injury will take three weeks to heal. Page 17

### Acrobat dies in fall

A circus audience of 300 saw an Australian high-wire acrobat fall 30ft to his death in an accident at Blackpool Tower circus last night. He had balanced on tubes above the ring as part of a specialty act at the end of the show.

## Busy lines cut off free phone offer

By PHILIP PANGALOS

ANMP has called for compensation for thousands of Mercury One-2-One customers who failed to get through on Christmas Day under the mobile telephone network's free calls promotion.

Newspapers, radio and television stations were inundated with calls yesterday from angry One-2-One customers. The £5 million free-call campaign was launched on November 8. Anyone who bought a phone between then and December 24 should have been able to make unlimited free calls anywhere in the world on Christmas Day.

However, some people yesterday claimed that they made hundreds of unsuccessful call attempts on Christmas Day but found lines constantly engaged. Some said they had been "cheated" and described the offer as a "con".

Andrew MacKinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock, said he would be writing to Michael

Heseltine, Board of Trade President, about the thousands of people who had been "enticed" into purchasing a Mercury One-2-One telephone service on the promise of free Christmas Day calls. Alan Thompson, a spokesman for One-2-One, admitted there had been problems as the company had faced bigger-than-expected "network congestion". He said demand for the service on Christmas Day made it harder to get through, but he stressed that dissatisfied customers who complain would be offered "recompense on a case-by-case basis".

The promotion boosted sales of One-2-One mobile phones, but customers are angry that Mercury failed to provide sufficient access on a day which was always likely to be busy. The network had more than one million calls on Christmas Day and rates were about ten times the average for a Sunday.



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## Looking back in affection on John Osborne

By A STAFF REPORTER

TRIBUTES from the theatre world are pouring in for John Osborne, the original Angry Young Man and author of *Look Back in Anger*, who died of heart failure on Christmas Eve, aged 65.

Harold Pinter, playwright and director, said: "I admired him very, very much. I also was extremely fond of him. I thought he had a wonderful sense of humour. He was a really mischievous chap. He made me laugh a lot."

Playwright Arnold Wesker said *Look Back in Anger* inspired him to write his first performed play, *Chicken Soup with Barley*, in 1959. "[Osborne] opened the doors for all the succeeding generations

of writers," he said. "His greatest contribution is to have brought a fierce intensity of passion to the stage. Very few writers had quite his depth of feeling. John cared about basic human values."

The first play directed by Jonathan Miller was Osborne's *Under Plain Cover*, but they later drifted apart. "He felt I was a trendy lefty," Miller said yesterday. "As he moved towards the Right, he had almost complete contempt for a whole group of people he thought were of the trendy Hampstead Left."

For his 60th birthday, Osborne reluctantly agreed to be interviewed by Miller for television, but the film was never used. "He had to be plied with extremely expensive champagne," Miller said. "He

became more and more like the old Edwardian father he kept attacking in *Look Back in Anger*. That was what he always wanted to be. He was always wearing these 18-piece tweed suits. His fury in the 1950s was that he wasn't a rich Edwardian squire."

Sheridan Morley, drama critic of *The Spectator*, said: "He had this tremendous raging against the light. Whatever it was, John was there to hate it. We have to remember the power of the language. He wrote wonderful roles."

Benedict Nightingale, page 2  
Bernard Levin and Diary, page 12  
Leading article, page 13  
Obituary, page 15



Osborne: "always there to hate whatever it was"

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Births, marriages, deaths..... | 14     |
| Bridge.....                    | 4      |
| Crossword.....                 | 4, 32  |
| Cricket.....                   | 16     |
| Law Report.....                | 29     |
| Leading articles.....          | 13     |
| Letters.....                   | 15     |
| Obituaries.....                | 15     |
| Weather.....                   | 16     |
| TV & Radio.....                | 30, 31 |

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# Playwright who shattered the mould

## John Osborne dared to show a mirror to society's ugly face

IF BRITAIN today has a theatre we ourselves think valuable, and the rest of the English-speaking world envies, a huge part of the credit belongs to John Osborne, who died on Christmas Eve. He may have gone on to write some ineffective, self-indulgent plays, but in 1956 he initiated what history will surely regard as one of the great eras of the English drama.

The impact and importance of his *Look Back in Anger* cannot be over-rated. Though the piece is still occasionally revived, most recently with Kenneth Branagh in the lead, it does not now seem very remarkable in itself. Osborne himself called it a "formal, rather old-fashioned" play. As a jobbing actor, he knew that its plot involved two of the theatre's hoariest subjects, misalliance and the eternal triangle.

But it was Jimmy Porter who was the triangle's apex and his voice that gave the play its force. "Angry young man" was the term coined by a press officer at the Royal Court, where *Look Back in Anger* first appeared; but it was hardly adequate to embrace Jimmy's fierce, funny denunciations of everyone from his wife's bowler-hatted brother, "the platitudinous from outer space", to bishops who described class distinction as a lie "wickedly fostered by the lower classes". Porter was a human blowtorch come to scorch the traditional and conventional.

He came from a lower-middle-class background, like Osborne, and had gone to what he called a "white-tile" rather than red-brick university. As such, he epitomised the restlessness and frustration of a new generation.

He also brought the smell of the kitchen sink to a British theatre that Arthur Miller, boggling at dozens of snobish comedies and silly West End thrillers, had dismissed as "hermetically sealed off from reality".

Suddenly that theatre was "the place to be at". Those were the words of Tom Stoppard, one of several writers who would probably have never turned to the drama but for the excitement generated



**Benedict Nightingale, The Times theatre critic, salutes a man who excoriated the conventional and, with *Look Back in Anger*, found a voice that initiated a great era of English drama**

by *Anger*. As it was, 1956 saw the start of a renaissance that brought our theatre dramatists as various as Arnold Wesker and Harold Pinter, John Arden and Peter Nichols, the rightish Stoppard and the hard-left Edward Bond.

For all its ups and downs, that renaissance is with us still. The irony is that its originator failed to stay the course. *Déjà vu*, which played at the Comedy in 1992, was the first new play by Osborne seen in London for nearly 20 years. For many, it definitively proved that the Angry Young Man had become a grumpy old blimp.

The truth was more complex. For one thing, several of the plays Osborne wrote in the aftermath of *Anger* are worth staging still: *The Entertainer* (in which Laurence Olivier originally played a fading vaudeville star), *Luther*, *A Patriot for Me*.

A recent revival of *Inadmissible Evidence* at the National, with Trevor Eve in the role that made Nicol Williamson famous, re-emphasised that Osborne's tale of a lawyer in mid-life crisis was the subtlest, deepest piece he ever wrote. But subtlety was not

usually his forte, and his compensating qualities, such as energy and incisiveness, began to desert him. In the 1970s, *Watch It Come Down* and *A Sense of Detachment* confirmed what *Time Present and Hotel in Amsterdam* had suggested in the late 1960s.

Increasingly, Osborne's plays seemed to consist of one nostalgically minded character wordily denouncing civilisation for the crime of being modern; and in rhetoric without the earlier zip and imagination.

Yet there was more emotional consistency to his work than some acknowledged. Though his diagnosis of what was wrong with Britain became more eccentric, his concern for its well-being did not change. Moreover, there was a theme that linked *Anger* with the most marginal of the later plays. The vital thing is to be true to yourself: you must respond and feel, or you will ossify and die.

Certainly, that idea came rollicking out of *Déjà vu*, his portrait of Jimmy Porter in a cantankerous old age. The play consisted of long blasts of monologue, indiscriminately aimed at Australians, "yook" culture, technocrats, gays, trendy bishops, American academics, vegetarians, a new generation of Royal Court dramatists, people called Debbie and Kevin, and his first wife's brother, who was now an MEP or "Minister for European Pricks".

But the old energy was there again, culminating in a glorious tirade in which Jimmy Porter promised to defy the smoke-polluted, the caring professions, the dietitians and "that hell's angel of check-out mercy, young Nurse Noylene" on his deathbed.

If any of these "creeping refuse collectors" called him a senior citizen, he added, they "would get one last almighty smack in their measly effing mouths". The right valedictory, surely, from the feisty father of modern British drama, John Osborne.

Tributes, page 1  
Bernard Levin, page 12  
Diary, page 13  
Leading article, page 13  
Obituary, page 15



Kenneth Haigh as Jimmy Porter and Mary Ure as his wife in the original production of *Look Back in Anger*

## Large and unpredictable softie who waged postal war of nerves

By BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

SOMEWHERE in my archives I have a postcard showing two plump toddlers cutely paddling at the seaside. The message on the back is rather different. Below an address vaguely given as British Playwrights' Mafia headquarters are the words: "Safer for your health to avoid downtown Chichester. You to sing first, Fatso Morley next."

The identity of the anonymous writer was not in doubt. It was John Osborne, colonel and (I think) sole member of the BPM, an organisation devoted to beating up theatre critics. And whatever the effect of the doubtless similar threat made to my colleague Sheridan Morley, it left me feeling decidedly nervous.

The year must have been 1973 or thereabouts, a time when Osborne's art was in decline and I was saying so in the column I then wrote for the *New Statesman*. Maybe my reviews of his plays were unacceptably vitriolic. I certainly recall feeling almost personally betrayed by the growing blimpishness of the author of *Look Back in Anger*, a play that as a callow schoolboy I thought summed up all my confusions. But I did not expect Osborne to react, first by telling a national newspaper "the shit Nightingale" was at the top of his hit-list, and second by sending me mad postcards.

His friends said he was really a softie; but to me he seemed large and unpredictable. He had heckled Jill

Bennett, one of his former wives, when she appeared on stage at Chichester. He was declaring it a patriotic duty to misdirect the foreign tourists littering our streets. He had recently played a gangster on television. On further thought, I considered it more likely he would try to humiliate rather than damage me.

So it almost proved. At the National a leg shot out as I walked down the aisle, and I jumped over it, looking back to see guess-who sitting innocently in his seat. What would be the next move?

With near-Osbornean eccentricity, I bought a meringue, thinking a Laureland-Hardy cake in the kissers might be an appropriate response to aggression; but it

decayed unused in my raincoat pocket.

I never met the man, and he found other objects for his ire. One of the last was Peter O'Toole, who pulled out of the production of his last play, *Déjà vu*. But finally enough that provoked Osborne to write to me in an oddly forgetting way. In my archives I now have two other postcards, calling me "dear Benedict" and denouncing in libellous terms stars who, he said, thought it more important to read their children bedtime stories than appear in plays.

"Thank God for the Krauts and wogs," one card inscrutably ends. Osborne had changed — and not changed at all.

## Wives and loves of angry young man who became old devil

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

"WHY do I, and men in general, marry? It's the most poetic thing to do, a symbol of totalling commitment," John Osborne once said. He had an anthology of wives, from the actress he met while he was an unknown actor playing in repertory to Helen Dawson, the former drama critic who became his fifth and final bride.

Osborne, who parodied the gossip-mongers of Fleet Street in his unsuccessful 1959 musical *The World of Paul Slickey*, featured frequently in their columns. His publican grandfather had an affair with Marie Lloyd, according to family legend, and Osborne inherited his weakness for beautiful women of the stage. His first marriage, to the actress Pamela Lane, was dissolved after six years. He met his second bride, Mary Ure, when she appeared in *Look Back in Anger*. They wed in 1957.

Five years later, Osborne created a scandal when he was cited as co-respondent in the divorce of Dr Roger Gilliat, a Harley Street nerve specialist who was best



Three women loved, married and left by John Osborne: from left, Jill Bennett, whom he nicknamed Adolf, Penelope Gilliat and Mary Ure

man at Princess Margaret's wedding, from his wife Penelope, a film critic.

In 1962, Mary Ure spent 40 minutes telling a divorce court judge about her husband's infidelity with three mistresses, including Mrs Gilliat. Osborne had been abroad on holiday with one of his lovers while his wife was giving birth to a son.

Osborne married Mrs Gilliat in 1963. Their daughter Nolan was born two years later. The marriage was dissolved in 1967 after he left his



wife for the actress Jill Bennett. She had been cast in Osborne's 1965 play *A Patriot for Me*, which the Lord Chamberlain described as "condemning to immorality" because of a scene involving homosexuals dancing in women's clothes.

He and Jill Bennett appeared to be a successful, happy couple. In 1969, she won the *Evening Standard* award for best actress while her husband collected the prize for best play. They bought a country home in



Kent, bordering Sir Winston Churchill's Chartwell estate. The 25 acres included a lake and formal gardens and the couple also had an elegant property in Chelsea. *Pravda*, the Soviet newspaper, meanwhile accused Osborne, the former Angry Young Man, of being "ground down and corrupted by the bourgeois propaganda machine".

The couple's domestic idyll was interrupted by several misfortunes. In 1969, as they sat listening to a tape recording of *Antony and Cleopatra*, burglars broke in and stole jewellery worth £400, while the Osbornes remained oblivious in their living room.

In 1972, a BBC scenery painter burst into the Chelsea home, grabbed a breadknife from the kitchen table and ran into the lounge. The police were called by the cook. Also, the couple's names were on a list found with an arms cache thought to belong to the international terrorist known as Carlos the



Jackal. When Osborne fell in love with Helen Dawson, a former critic who had become a programme compiler for the National Theatre, Bennett was dismissive of her rival: "I think she is an usherette at the National."

She sent a fine blue shirt to her husband "with a note saying I'd like the contents of the shirt back some time". They were divorced a year later.

Osborne married his fifth wife in 1981. The relationship with Jill Bennett continued

to haunt him, however. In 1986, he told an interviewer: "I call her Adolf which everybody thinks is in bad taste, but it's accurate. The word journalists always use about her is vulnerable, which she isn't."

After she took her own life four years later, Osborne wrote in his notebook "Jill Bennett committed suicide yesterday. Except, of course, that she didn't, merely perverting a final, common little deceit under the delusion that it was an expression of 'style' rather than the coarse posturing of an overbeaten housemaid."

There were harsh words, too, for his daughter Nolan whom he had stopped seeing when she reached the age of 16. "I thought she was terribly trivial, commonplace and cold-hearted," he later said.

In 1992, he had to be helped off stage after collecting an award for lifetime achievement from the Writers' Guild of Great Britain. His largely incoherent speech — blamed later on diabetes — included the remark: "This is a horrible profession which has never been held in such contempt."

## Four die as plane strikes power line

Four people died when their light aircraft crashed near the end of a Boxing Day outing. The plane, carrying three men and a woman, struck a power line beside the church at Stapleford Tawney, near Ongar, Essex, as it was making its approach to Stapleford aerodrome.

Firemen cut two people from the wreckage but both were already dead. The other two people on board had been thrown from the aircraft on impact. Their names were not released.

A spokeswoman for Stapleford Flying Club said the aircraft had been carrying a club member and three guests who were returning from a rally over the coast at Dover. Electricity supplies to homes around the crash site were cut off.

## BBC victory

Unofficial BBC figures showed BBC1 programmes attracting 52 per cent of Christmas Day viewers in peak time, while 38.5 per cent watched ITV. *EastEnders* was the most popular programme with 13.5 million viewers, followed by *Keeping Up Appearances*.

## Mother at 57

A woman from Anglesey has given birth to her eighth child at the age of 57. Mrs Eileen Jones, a grandmother of 12 from Llanfachraeth, said: "Christmas is the best Christmas present I've ever had, but I don't think I'll have another. Eight children is enough."

## Boy, 7, held

A boy aged seven and four teenagers were held by police late on Christmas Day after a chase in which four police vehicles were damaged. The children were in a car stolen from Wednesday, West Midlands, which was halted on the M1 at Northampton.

## Knife death

A man was stabbed to death after trying to break up a late-night Christmas Day street fight outside a workmen's club in Durham. Kevin Wright, 31, a steel erector and part-time club doorman from Newton Aycliffe, leaves a wife and a four-year-old son.

## Buses destroyed

Ten buses have been destroyed in a fire at a bus depot in Colchester, Essex, that caused damage valued at more than £1 million. Ten homes were evacuated. A homeless man in his forties who often slept in the buses was arrested.

## Child assaulted

A girl aged four was abducted on Christmas Eve from a supermarket toy department in Colliers Wood, southwest London, and sexually assaulted in a nearby park by a man calling himself Uncle Christmas. She was found in tears after the abductor fled.

## Gunman shot

A man pushing an allegedly kidnapped baby girl in a pushchair was wounded by armed officers after shooting in the leg a police marksman who confronted him in a street a quarter of a mile from the baby's home in Enfield, north London.

## Festive wave

More than 1,000 people plunged into the chilly waves of the North Sea during a Boxing Day charity dip. The bathers, most in fancy dress, joined a procession on the promenade at Seaburn, Tyne and Wear, then rushed across the beach into the sea.

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## Graduates

Continued from page 1  
fees, or the level of grant or loan to be set.

Mr Blunkett is said to be keen to expand the number of students in further and higher education and would see a graduate charge as an integral part of this policy. Labour sources argue that the current student loan system, under which students can borrow up to £1,375 a year for up to five years, is inequitable, favouring richer students, and is an administrative shambles. Last year about 50 per cent of those in higher education received loans.

Under the Government's system all students have to pay back their loan within five years, provided they earn more than 85 per cent of the

national wage, or £14,500. Labour sources claim that the payback period is too short and the trigger point too low. They argue that the level of debt many of these students incur is between £6,000 and £8,000, which could instead be recouped over a much longer period through taxation.

Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett are keen to avoid any punitive charge which would dissuade students from higher education. Over the next few months Mr Blunkett is expected to argue the case for providing bridging funds to expand tertiary education until enough tax is raised to cover the costs.

In another controversial initiative Mr Blunkett is expected to modernise Labour's approach to grant-maintained schools. Over the coming months he will be consulting with interested parties about

the best way to accommodate opt-out schools in a "local democratic framework".

Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett are trying to soften Labour's traditional opposition to such schools, while ensuring that the schools are not given preferential treatment. Mr Blunkett intends to scrap the central funding agency but ensure that self-governing schools still retain much of their autonomy.

He is expected to outline a phased programme in which grant-maintained schools will be made more accountable to the local community, but will not return to local authority control. A paper will be drafted after Easter with the aim of putting a new policy to the party conference in October.

Fight for cash, page 4  
Leading article, page 13

## Overnight snow produces perfect Highland skiing

SKIERS took to the slopes in Scotland yesterday after heavy overnight snowfalls, topped up with regular showers throughout the day, afforded perfect conditions (Sarah Griffin writes).

Several hundred skied at Cairngorm and the Nevis Range at Aonach Mor. Activities at Cairngorm were confined to the lower slopes in the morning as winds gusted to over 30 mph. Skiers and snow-boarders headed for the upper runs as soon as the wind dropped.

Blizzards raged over the Glenshee slopes but there was still not enough snow for

skiing. A spokesman said: "We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will not have too long to wait now." Only the dry ski slope was open at the Lecht centre.

In Scarborough, residents headed for the seaford for the town's century-old collections for charity. The big event was a football match between fishermen and ships' firemen on the South Sands, followed by a raft race around the harbour for eight vessels.

Mud was the order of the day in Essex where hundreds waded through thigh-deep black mud for charity. The Maldon Mud Race, revived

after a lapse of five years, took contestants across more than 200 yards of the River Blackwater estuary.

Motorists on the M25 faced a 26-mile tailback from junction 11 at Chertsey and junction 6, Godstone, caused by roadworks, accidents and traffic heading for Kempton Park races. A 12-car crash on the M6 near Walsall in the West Midlands caused long queues.

Shops and electrical retailers were among those to start their sales on Boxing Day but the rush was not expected until tomorrow.

Forecast, page 16



## Defiant hunt runs gauntlet of insults and hoax bombs

By IAN MURRAY

IGNORING two hoax bombs, megaphones blaring insults and the threat of legislation to outlaw their sport, the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt chased over the Sussex Downs yesterday, one of 332 packs in Britain that honoured the tradition of a Boxing Day meet.

The hunt saboteurs were out early with their placards in front of the ancient Spread-eagle Hotel in Midhurst where the hunt was to meet. Two waiters in medieval dress stood with silver trays of port and sherry to hand round to hotel guests and members of the hunt as they arrived.

"Shame on the management of this honourable old inn for serving drink to these disgusting scumbags," Simon Wild shouted down the megaphone. "I'm not a disgusting scumbag," said a very large hotel guest clutching a very small glass of port. "I'm an Australian."

"You can laugh because you have had your fat food," said Jane Kluckers, who now had

the megaphone. "These poor animals get chased by these scumbags and have to work hard for their food. You don't know what it is like to be chased for three hours. Even those of you who fought in the war do not know the courage of these animals."

"Scum, scum," chanted the group of 30 saboteurs as the first huntsman arrived on a skittish mare called Moo. She bucked and bridled unhappily as her rider Anthony Langdale took her past the placards and blaring hunting horns into the inn yard. The crowd of 50 hunt supporters and hotel guests clapped him in.

"I don't mind what these people say," said Mr Langdale, a member of the hunt committee. "It's what they do that is so objectionable." On Christmas Day Moo's stable received a gaily-wrapped parcel. The army bomb squad was called in to destroy it along with a second one at the hunt kennels at Cowdray Park. Both were hoaxes but had badly frightened the sta-

ble girls and kennel keepers. The rest of the hunt arrived with the pack to blares on the protesters' horns. To chants of "scum" and "disgusting" they set off to Cowdray Park where the rest of the hunt waited. The protesters followed. "Get off that horse, you bitch," a young man shouted at a middle-aged lady. "You are not worthy to be up on an animal." A police inspector, in charge of the 20 men on duty, shepherded him away. "You miserable, selfish, wicked people," Mr Wild roared down the megaphone. "You've got a cabbage between your ears, the lot of you."

His oratory won a round of applause from the saboteurs. Then the hunt set off for the downs and the saboteurs tried but failed to keep up. Some of the young men wore army surplus camouflage and heavy boots. By the edge of Cowdray Park golf club they conferred with four monitors of the League Against Cruel Sports. The hunt had moved on to private land and anyone following was in danger of arrest and criminal prosecution. League members were not prepared to break the law.

"We are here to take videos which will help convince Tory MPs to make this illegal," said Marian Lanhart, the League's Sussex representative. John McFall, Labour MP for Dumbarton, will introduce a Private Member's Bill on March 3 aimed at banning hunting with hounds and other field sports.

Ms Kluckers' van broke down and a shadowing police car went off to get help. "We've heard that the hunt has a jeep full of paras from Aldershot to provide security," she said. "Last year they used the Irish Guards," she said. Two hours later the hunt, still in search of a fox, arrived on a farm near Petworth to change horses. By then some had given up and started to ride home individually. "It was a good day's ride, never mind the fox, I've built up a tremendous thirst," said one as he rode away.



An anti-hunt protester on the Sussex Downs yesterday

Photograph, page 16

£15

SALE

£15

SALE

£19

SALE

£25

SALE

£39

SALE

SKIRTS

KNITWEAR

BLOUSES

TROUSERS

DRESSES

An Oxford Street bargain hunter shows Bank Holiday closing is no bar to eyeing the best buys

## Shops curtail holiday and cut prices again for frugal buyers

By ROBIN YOUNG

ELECTRICAL, furniture and DIY stores cut short the holiday and opened their doors again yesterday, beating handsomely the bargains they were already offering before Christmas. Some attracted queues on a rainy Boxing Day morning by offering special "early bird" reductions.

Despite reports that Christmas achieved a record spend of £20 billion, shopkeepers admitted there was more surplus stock than usual to shift in the January sales, many of which have been running since mid-November. "We believe many people postponed their Christmas spending this year looking for a little bit more saving," the electrical chain Dixons said. "We now have a lot of people coming into the stores buying each other belated Christmas presents at knockdown prices."

Comet was taking an extra £50 off the pre-Christmas price of some dishwashers and hi-fi systems, and £100 off televisions. "We have been waiting for this," said Martin Skues, from Holloway, north London, who was first in the queue at the Brent Cross store. "The family wore the last television out over Christmas. I just knew prices would have further to fall, so we waited until the holiday was over to splash out."

Comet in Manningham Lane, Bradford, was "very, very hectic", with hundreds of shoppers cramming the store. Jemma Brook, a shop assistant, said: "We believe the 'feel-good' factor is here."

Rumblings, which brought forward its January sale to mid-December in an effort to boost receipts, also had further reductions. "Everything is cut to the bone," a manager said. "The new year sales are going to be more competitive than ever."

At branches of the DIY chain Texas the lead offer was a Wrightoo kitchen complete with appliances for £699.81. "We opened at 9am and sold three in the first hour, which made it well worth coming in early," an assistant said.

A manageress at Molen's Baker Street showroom in west London said: "The big advantage is that customers can park without any difficulty on Bank Holidays. We expect to be quite busy later today and over the new year."

Magnet stores were offering an extra 10 per cent off sale prices that had already been halved and a free dishwasher for anyone spending more than £3,000. "I know of five free dishwashers that have been claimed already," a spokesman said. "The sale is going brilliantly."

Many department stores around the country start their sales this morning, with big bargains offered in winter clothing, electrical goods and home furnishings.

## Labour calls for checks on freed inmates as police hunt killer

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

TOUGH powers to restrict the movement of violent offenders released from jail were demanded by Labour last night as police searched for a man wanted in connection with the murder of his former wife.

Alan Michael, a Labour spokesman, called for judges to be given the authority to impose restrictions on former prisoners in cases where they continued to pose a threat to their victims.

"At the time of sentence the judge should have the power to require that in appropriate circumstances the victim or the victim's family be kept informed of the arrangements for the offender's release and even specify conditions in rare cases where that is appropriate," he said.

Mr Michael said there had been a growing number of "worrying and frightening" cases in which offenders had posed a threat to former victims.

He called for the restrictions in the wake of the murder of Margaret Manning, 41, who was shot at her home in Aberlert, Gwent, early on Christmas Day. Police want to interview her former husband, Phillip Manning, who

was released from The Verne prison in Dorset in October after serving 27 months for attempting to murder her in 1992.

Last night Mrs Manning's family and the organisation Justice for Victims criticised the criminal justice system for allowing her husband out of jail so soon. A close relative, who cannot be named for her own protection, said: "Something is wrong with British justice when this can be allowed to happen. Our Margaret would still be alive and enjoying Christmas if the legal system kept its word."

A spokeswoman for Justice for Victims said violent criminals should be kept in prison longer. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, insisted that in cases where an offender had completed his sentence the authorities had no option other than to let him go, even if they had reason to believe he might still pose a threat to his former victim. He said that if former victims were worried they should contact the police.

Detectives in Gwent believe Mr Manning, 41, a labourer, could be anywhere in the country by now. He was sighted in Kensington, west



Manning, jailed for attempted murder

London, only 12 hours after his former wife was killed.

Mrs Manning was shot in the hallway of her home just after before midnight on Christmas Eve. A man burst into the house where Mrs Manning, 41, was preparing for Christmas with her new boyfriend Neil Jones, 42, and, after an argument, the woman was shot.

Her son, Daniel, 11, who was woken by the argument, called her in his arms as she died. After the shooting, the gunman turned on Mr Jones, who suffered serious

stab wounds to the head. Mr Jones is in hospital in intensive care, under police protection.

Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston, leading the hunt, said that nobody should approach Mr Manning, who could be anywhere. Mrs Manning had known her former husband was out of jail because he had been in touch with her mother and her son. He said it would be impossible for police to give protection to every woman who had been involved in a violent domestic incident and added that they had no reason to believe Mrs Manning had been in direct danger.

Mr Manning was jailed for four years at Newport Crown Court after attempting to murder his wife in July 1992. He slashed her stomach and arms with a knife after she left him. He had previous convictions for assault. Under the 1991 Criminal Justice Act, Mr Manning became eligible for parole after serving half his sentence and for automatic conditional release after serving two thirds.

Mr Manning is described as 5ft 6in tall, slim with greying hair in a pony-tail and wearing a black leather jacket, blue jeans and training shoes.

## 'He never imagined people loved him as they did'

## Roy Castle named personality of year

By ANJANA AHUJA



Castle, bowled over by public's affection

ROY CASTLE, the entertainer who fought a public battle against lung cancer, was honoured yesterday as Personality of the Year by listeners of BBC Radio 4's Today programme. John Major polled the second highest number of votes, and Nelson Mandela, the President of South Africa, was third.

Mr Castle, who presented the BBC1 programme Record Breakers, died in September aged 62. He blamed the illness on years of having played the trumpet in smoke-filled clubs. A

vociferous campaigner against the dangers of passive smoking, he spent the last few months of his life raising money to build a lung cancer research centre. The BBC has decided to give the profits of its telephone poll to the Roy Castle Cause for Hope Appeal. BBC1 will screen a tribute to the entertainer tomorrow.

Fiona Castle, his widow, said on the Today programme: "I think he would have been the most amazed person of all because he actually had quite low self-esteem. He never imagined

that people loved him as much as they did." She said her husband had been "absolutely bowled over" by people's affection once his illness became public.

Mr Castle polled 36,936 of the 130,560 votes cast. Mr Major received 27,838 votes, Nelson Mandela 23,738, and the Labour leader Tony Blair 16,067. The Euro-rebel MP Teresa Gorman received 13,185 votes. Peace efforts in Northern Ireland earned John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, sixth place with 12,796 votes.

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HARRODS

4TH JANUARY - 28TH JANUARY

*Sought after since 1893.*



## Timeshare scheme proposed

## Oxford puts £1m price on chairs in fight for cash

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND JAMES MACKINTOSH

OXFORD University has put a £1 million price tag on its professorships as it tries to maintain the momentum of one of Britain's most successful fund-raising campaigns.

The Campaign for Oxford was wound up in October after raising £341 million in five years. But the university has established a new unit to ensure that the most important projects continue.

Professor Andrew Goudie, president-elect of the development fund, said the university had established a variable scale of charges for potential donors, offering a personalised professorship for £1.2 million. "We have more of these endowments than you'd think. But we're not totally mercenary."

The sponsored chair, often named after a research-based company, is a common vehicle for attracting private funding into higher education. Oxford has been one of the most successful exponents, recently extending the practice to the naming of whole colleges.

The university has been able to keep its fund-raising low-key until now. But colleges are facing new financial pressures, which may signal an end to the restrained approach.

Manchester College, for example, is aiming to raise money over the summer by renting parts of the college on a timeshare basis. The scheme will be discussed by governors next month.

The timeshare plan would provide visiting academics with a room and access to the library for the summer for a period of up to five years. The foreign professors would not be able to use the Bodleian Library and its collection of six million books, however, and

the rooms are a far cry from Brideshead, having been built only last year.

Manchester is waiting for the formality of Privy Council assent before becoming a full member of Oxford University. The college's name will change to the Manchester Academy and Harris College, in recognition of a £3.6 million donation by Sir Philip Harris, the carpet magnate.

Dr Ralph Waller, the principal, was reluctant to comment on the timeshare plans in case



Sir Philip: college name change after £3.6m gift

other colleges copied the scheme. But he said: "Universities worldwide are having financial problems, which, according to our initial feelers, will make it difficult for them to afford to send academics here."

Dr Waller emphasised that, if the plan were to fall through, he would not be prepared to compromise the academic standing of the college by cashing in on the Oxford name. "It could definitely make money if we were prepared to accept ordinary

members of the public, but we want to create a summer research institute."

The last Norrington Table, published in *The Times*, placed Manchester last in the academic league of Oxford colleges. Position in the table is very closely related to the size of assets. Other colleges have not been quite so bold as Manchester, but fund-raising has assumed a position of great importance in all of the poorer colleges. Yearbooks have become slicker, and most now employ full-time professionals as "development directors".

St Catherine's, founded only in 1963, has been at the forefront of new methods of squeezing cash from alumni: four students were taken to the United States in September to raise the money for new student accommodation.

In the largest sponsorship deal to date, Rewley House, the university's centre for part-time and mature students, changed its name earlier this month to Kellogg College. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, developed by the breakfast cereal company, has provided grants worth £12 million in recent years.

Oxford has been by far the most successful fund-raiser among British universities. Cambridge started later and does not include research grants or college projects in its total of £151 million.

Almost 60 per cent of the students winning places at Oxford last year had the maximum possible A-level score, according to new admissions statistics. One student was admitted with less than the equivalent of three D grades, but eight out of ten places went to candidates with at least two As and a B.



Far cry from Bedford: Duffy Blackwood with one of the tankers that provide his living, and the mountains offering spectacular days out

## Drain brain relieves the pain in Spain

FROM BILL FROST IN MARBELLA

AS HE celebrated Christmas on the Costa del Sol, Duffy Blackwood once again raised his glass to the inadequacy of Spanish sanitation. Blocked drains have been good to him.

Twenty-two years ago, when he arrived in the country, Mr Blackwood had no clear idea how to make a living. He had no intention of returning to Bedford, however. He dabbled in tool hire and pest control in Marbella before realising that "real money" could be made from clearing drains blocked by domestic rubbish and worse. "The local authorities here either couldn't cope or didn't mind the smell."

Under pressure from the commun-

ity, not least the sizeable contingent of British expatriates on the Costa del Sol, Mr Blackwood, 50, seized his opportunity and secured his future. "I went back to Britain and bought a couple of tanker lorries with suction pumps. Once the first drain had been cleared, I was in — the market was cornered."

Mr Blackwood, who misses Britain "like you would miss toothache", then moved into private waste removal. Once word of his success was out, the offers poured in and he took on four British expats. When not cleaning street drains, Mr Blackwood and his men are to be found on the golf links. Greens and fairways flood with alarming regularity when a soakaway becomes blocked. "Horrible smelly pools soon form if we don't act quickly. We have to be extra

careful. No one wants a fairway gouged up with lorry tyre marks." Yesterday he and his wife took their camper van into the mountains for a short Christmas break. "It is a spectacularly beautiful country. I don't recall anything in Bedford that even comes close," he said.

John, 25, a former security guard from Battersea, southwest London, is similarly enthusiastic about life on the Costa del Sol. Each night he attends to "quality control" on the door of Maxim's nightclub in Marbella. He is uncomfortable with the term bouncer, he does not like violence and, given his size, usually finds a glare or a firm hand on the shoulder will pacify the most fractious Christmas reveller.

John misses little about Battersea. "Life was not really going anywhere.

Here there are more opportunities. I have a Spanish wife, so Marbella is home now. I get the odd bit of nostalgia for London, but then I remember the crime, drugs being dealt on the street — Battersea was no place to bring up a family."

Crime and drug peddling are not exactly unknown on the Costa del Sol, however. In a quiet bar at Estepona, two ex-pats enjoyed a quiet Christmas drink and recalled victories over British and Spanish customs investigators. The talk was of fast boats from Gibraltar and quiet beaches on the Spanish side.

Terry's reasons for being in Spain were "a bit too delicate to discuss". His companion was even less forthcoming. Neither intends to return to Britain. Terry said: "All my mates are here. It's home from home."

## Birdwatchers keep an eagle eye out as barn owls enjoy revival

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY  
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT  
AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

Barn owl: modest recovery

THE biggest census of barn owls in history has been launched to track the fortunes of an elusive bird that was once commonly seen at twilight gliding along hedgerows.

Some 1,200 volunteers are being recruited to take part in a three-year survey, which ornithologists hope will confirm anecdotal evidence that these beautiful creatures are making a modest recovery after 170 years in decline.

The study will cover 1,400 blocks of territory, each 1.5 square miles in area and selected at random across the British Isles. Mike Toms, of the British Trust for Ornithology, who is in charge of the project, said: "We aim to have at least one volunteer per block and to extrapolate data

for the whole country from their reports." Each winter the researchers will identify all potential barn owl nesting sites in areas to which they are assigned and mark them on a map. They will revisit the sites in July and August and note signs of occupation or breeding.

"Part of our task will be to see if regional differences in barn owl numbers can be linked to such factors as traffic density and the loss of hedgerows and rough grassland," Mr Toms said. "The survey will also enable us to test the efficacy of nesting boxes and other conservation measures."

A less systematic count ten years ago suggested there were then no more than 3,800 pairs of barn owls in England and Wales, compared with 12,000 in 1932 when the only other survey was done, and perhaps another 1,000 in Scotland and

Ireland (including Ulster). If there was a golden age for barn owls, it was between 1720 and 1845 when more than six million acres of open fields were enclosed and parcelled into individual farms. The planting and digging of miles of boundary hedges and ditches and the opening up of woodland created ideal habitat for the voles, mice and shrews on which the birds feed.

After 1825, when pheasant-rearing started, gamekeepers with traps and new breech-loading guns killed increasing numbers of barn owls, which were more vulnerable than many other birds of prey because their nesting sites, in hollow trees and farm buildings, were easy to find. Persecution declined after the First World War, but an even greater threat than predatory gamekeepers was looming on the horizon: the arrival in

the early 1940s of the combine harvester. This removed the need for the storage of grain in unthreshed ricks, and the rickyard, swarming in rats and mice, disappeared from the farm. Almost overnight barn owls lost a ready-made source of food.

Increasingly, barn owls have been forced to hunt for prey along the unmanaged verges beside roads, a hazardous pursuit for birds that fly a few feet off the ground. Up to 5,000 barn owls are killed every year by traffic.

While barn owls will never return to their former abundance, they are thought to have been helped in recent years by a string of mild winters, by tighter controls on pesticides and by the enforced fallowing of farmland under the set-aside scheme.

Another ornithological success

story this year has been the sea eagle, Britain's largest bird of prey, after five young of the species were successfully reared in the wild. The chicks take the total number of wild sea eagles fledged in Scotland to 39 since the birds were reintroduced to Britain from Norway in 1975. In addition, ten young birds supplied by Norway were released into the wild by the Sea Eagle Project Team, run jointly by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Britain has been invaded by the largest number of northern bullfinches for 84 years, according to a report by the British Trust for Ornithology. The birds, which probably come from Sweden and Norway, are up to 15 per cent bigger than their British counterparts and the males are a much brighter pink.



Sea eagle: five chicks reared

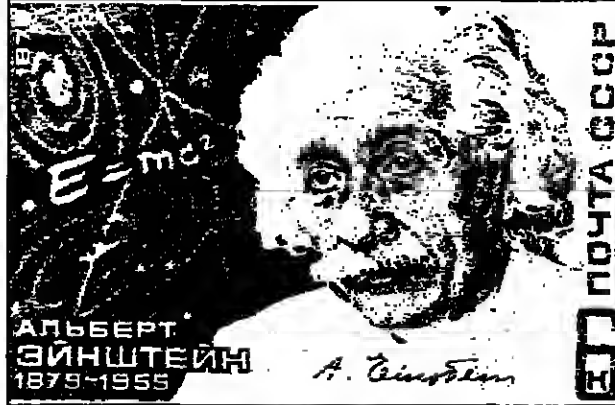
MILLENNIUM LECTURE SERIES  
THE TIMES DEMOS

## Creativity and Leadership by Howard Gardner

READERS are invited to the first in a series of The Times/Demos Millennium lectures to be held during 1995.

The inaugural lecture, Creativity and Leadership, will be given by Howard Gardner, a Harvard professor, who first made his name with the theory of multiple intelligences which revolutionised ideas about human potential.

In his lecture, Professor Gardner will be looking at the creativity and effectiveness in leadership, examining the characteristics of past leaders, such as Mar-



Einstein, shown here, with his signature, on a stamp, signed a blackboard at Manchester University in 1921

## University regains Einstein autograph

A PIECE of blackboard bearing Albert Einstein's signature is to be given back its pride of place at Manchester University 35 years after it was dumped in a cellar.

Einstein signed the board at the university, where he delivered his first British lecture on the theory of relativity in 1921, the year he won the Nobel prize for physics, and was made an honorary doctor of science. His signature on the bottom of the board was later cut out, framed and hung in the physics laboratory until 1960. However, when the laboratory was redecorated the great man's autograph was consigned to the cellar.

Douglas Broadbent, a lecturer, rescued it seven years later, days ahead of a rubbish clearance during which it would probably have been destroyed. Mr Broadbent, now 75, kept the memento on

a wall in his home at Wythenshawe, Manchester. He has now handed it back to the university to be displayed once again.

"I found it stacked in a corner of the cellar with a lot of unwanted research equipment," Mr Broadbent said. "I found out it was scheduled to be cleared in a couple of days and the board would have been destroyed."

"I knew I had to do something quickly so I took it out and it has been hanging in my hall ever since. I always regarded it as a custodianship rather than ownership. Now I am not so closely connected with the university it seemed the right time to return it."

Einstein, born of Jewish parents in Bavaria in 1879, was educated in Germany and Switzerland. He emigrated to the United States after the rise of Hitler. He died in 1955.

## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

## King's gambits

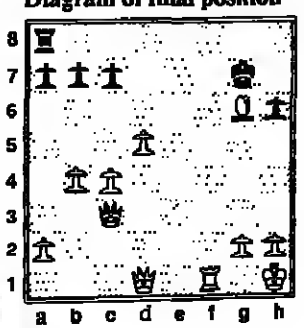
The Hastings tournament has been the scene of many slashing attacks with the adventurous 19th-century openings. One of the most notable was Norman Littlewood's win with this system in the 1963-64 competition. The Hungarian grandmaster playing Black is overwhelmed by a sudden and deadly cascade of sacrifices.

White: N. Littlewood  
Black: Lengyel  
Hastings, 1963

King's gambit

- |    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 1  | e4   | e5   |
| 2  | f4   | exf4 |
| 3  | Be2  | d5   |
| 4  | exd5 | Ne7  |
| 5  | Bf3  | Nxd5 |
| 6  | Ne2  | Bc7  |
| 7  | 0-0  | 0-0  |
| 8  | g4   | Nf6  |
| 9  | g5   | g6   |
| 10 | Nbc3 | Kf8  |
| 11 | b4   | Nbd7 |
| 12 | Bb2  | Re8  |
| 13 | d5   | Ne6  |
| 14 | Ne4  | Nxe4 |
| 15 | Bxe4 | Bf6  |
| 16 | Nd4  | g4   |

Diagram of final position



17 Qh5  
18 Rd4  
19 Rd7  
20 Kh1  
21 Bxg6  
22 Rg7  
23 Bxe6  
24 Re1  
25 Rf1  
26 Qd1  
27 Qx6

Black resigns

When the international master William Hartston repeated the King's gambit against Boris Spassky later that decade his opponent was better prepared.

White: Hartston  
Black: Spassky  
Hastings 1965

King's gambit

- |    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 1  | e4   | e5   |
| 2  | f4   | exf4 |
| 3  | Nf3  | d5   |
| 4  | exd5 | Nf6  |
| 5  | Bb5+ | c6   |
| 6  | Bxc6 | Nxc6 |
| 7  | d4   | Bd6  |
| 8  | Qe2+ | Qc7  |
| 9  | Nd5  | 0-0  |
| 10 | Bxc6 | bxc6 |
| 11 | Bd4  | Nd5  |
| 12 | Bg3  | Re8  |
| 13 | Nf3  | Bxg3 |
| 14 | h3   | Re8  |
| 15 | Kf2  | Bf6  |
| 16 | Qc4  | Nf8  |
| 17 | Nc3  | Ne3  |
| 18 | Qc5  | Ng4+ |
| 19 | Kg1  | Qd7  |
| 20 | Rf1  | Bxc2 |
| 21 | Rf4  | Ne3  |
| 22 | Rf6  | Bg6  |
| 23 | Nd4  | Qe6  |
| 24 | Nf3  | Qe6  |
| 25 | Rf3  | Qe6  |
| 26 | Qc3  | Qe6  |
| 27 | Nc5  | Qe6  |
| 28 | Qd2  | Rae8 |

White resigns

Winning Move, page 32

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN  
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

## King's gambits

The declarer plays low from dummy on the diamond lead. East plays the jack and South follows with the two. How should East defend?

Answer: The hand is from the St John's Wood Bridge Club annual Auction Pairs, played on December 14. In this form of the game, before the Off each pair is put up for auction. The successful purchaser then owns the pair. The money generated goes into a pool, which at the end of the tournament is shared out among the owners of the winners.

The purchasers are usually well-dressed men smoking cigars who, while not much good at playing the game, are shrewd judges of the horse-flesh. Auctions like this have an amusing slave-market atmosphere. I remember asking someone at a backgammon

auction at Aspinall's Casino why he had paid so much for an unreliable performer. The purchaser explained haughtily: "I bought him to set him free."

When my partner won the jack of diamonds at trick one he correctly deduced that my lead was a singleton. But he decided to return the three of diamonds.

When giving your partner a ruff it is usual to indicate which suit you would like returned — low cards indicate the lower, and high cards the higher-ranking suit (a "suit preference" or McKenney signal). In this case I decided East had a singleton club, and played ace and another club, allowing the contract to be made. I was afraid to cash the ace of spades lest it be ruffed. Had East returned a middle diamond (expressing no particular suit preference) I would have cashed my black aces to take the contract one down.

There was a time when I was a professional bridge player. I was a member of the St John's Wood Bridge Club and played in many tournaments. I was a member of the St John's Wood Bridge Club and played in many tournaments. I was a member of the St John's Wood Bridge Club and played in many tournaments.

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# Pig fat for lunch on the Death Railway: The Times pays its last visit to Christmas 1944

## Beaten and starved, they prayed for freedom

By Bill Frost and Alan Hamilton

BY CHRISTMAS 1944 Harold Payne had lost seven stone after suffering three years of regular beatings at the hands of his Japanese captors.

The young Royal Artillery lieutenant had been among the last to surrender when the Japanese stormed Singapore. Like the others compelled to work on the infamous Death Railway linking Burma and Thailand, Mr Payne, then 23, had begun to believe that he would die without seeing his family at home again. However, morale at the camp in the

for no reason. I saw friends starved and sick with no food and no medical treatment. Then there were the executions — prisoners caught after an escape attempt. But the padres were marvellous at keeping our spirits up. On Christmas morning 1944 we held a carol service. Even those without religion attended.

Under the watchful eye of the camp guards, the men sang hymns and offered prayers for peace. At the end of the service the POWs sang the national anthem. "Those too weak to stand to attention were supported by the stronger among us. It was very important to show the Japanese that we had not lost our spirit."

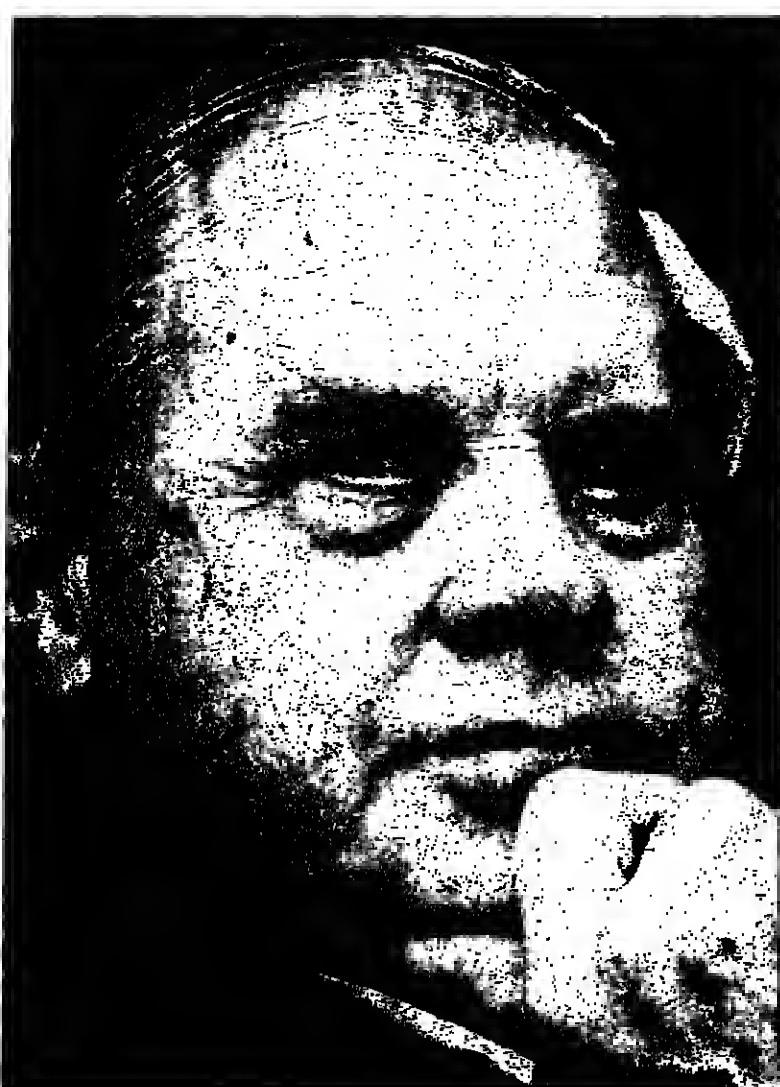
After a morning's work in appalling heat, the men were allowed to make their Christmas lunch. "The cooks did their best to ensure it was a special meal — rice boiled in vegetable water and then shaped into rissoles with a little pork fat. Today you would call it pig swill, but then it was a gourmet dish."

"You must remember that we were so emaciated by then that a little bit of fat was the treat of a lifetime. When I was captured I weighed fourteen stone, when I was freed I weighed less than seven."

After lunch the POWs held their concert party. Even though they had only rags to wear and no shoes, the men managed to fashion costumes. "I don't know how it was done, but putting on as good a show



Harold Payne: young lieutenant, left, and at home in Kent. He weighed 14st when he was captured at the fall of Singapore, 7st when freed



## Back to a billet for char and gunfire

By A Staff Reporter

WARTIME produced a rich slang, much of it originating in the services among men who had rubbed shoulders with Australian comrades or who had served in the Arabic-speaking Middle East.

Winco Conkey was pitching a woo with a Grable-bodied seaman, a real lush bin. He took the liberty bus to meet her at seven pipemma outside Aggy's and invited her to take a dekho at the brig rags of his Naffy and his Spam. With the body snatchers out after a Big Ben bang and a few civvies probably gone for a Burton, they adjourned for bented sunshins, then back to his billet for char and gunfire.

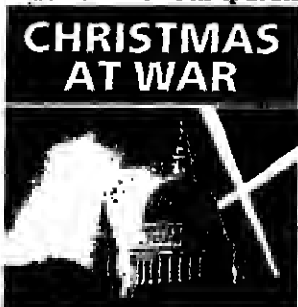
He spun her an absolute cakey bar about how, returning from a wizard prang in Happy Valley, he had nearly bought it when he fell Harry Crashers at the beer lever, flying his Halibag straight into a Belinda, doing a broily hop, and getting into trouble with the gaberdrine swine.

Translation: a gentleman with a big nose claiming to be a wing commander was walking out with a pretty Wren.

He took military transport into town to meet her at 7pm outside Dame Agnes Weston's Sailors' Rest House and invited her to look at his campaign medal ribbons. Ambulance crews were out after a V2 rocket attack and it appeared there might be civilian casualties, so they repaired for a drink, then back to his place for tea and crunchie biscuits.

He told her a whopper about how, returning from a raid on the Ruhr, he was nearly killed when he fell asleep at the controls, flying his Halibag straight into a balloon, escaping by parachute, and being reprimanded by headquarters staff officers.

Leading article, page 13



hills northeast of Bangkok was surprisingly high that Christmas. Prisoners working in their captors' kitchens had stolen some pork fat; the Japanese had authorised a concert party and allied raids on the railway were becoming more frequent. Someone at the camp had managed to steal the parts necessary to assemble a crystal radio set and the airwaves were searched for news of the outside world.

Tears came easily to Mr Payne when he recalls that Christmas, "I saw men beaten to within an inch of their lives

as possible was very important. The concert party was a way of demonstrating to the Japanese that we were not broken, we were still British," Mr Payne said.

That night Mr Payne, who had been an insurance clerk before the war, found a quiet corner of the camp and sat staring at the moon, as he had many times before. "Captivity and ill treatment do strange things to a man," he recalls. "I looked at the moon and thought of my mother and father at home and how much I missed them. I believed it was thought transference. I was somehow bouncing my

message home to them off the moon. "Of course, I see now that it was all rubbish. But you cannot imagine how comforting it was then on that Christmas night to believe I was contacting my parents. It gave me such immense hope."

At his home in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, Mr Payne, who returned to the insurance business after the war, finds it difficult to talk about his last Christmas in captivity. His wife still wakes him regularly in the small hours when he cries out in his sleep, imploring his captors not to beat him again.

"I can never forgive the

Japanese for what they did, not even at this time of year," Mr Payne said. "I thank God the Americans dropped the atomic bombs on them to end the war."

Life as a POW was infinitely less traumatic for Herbert Fuchs, a Wehrmacht trooper who was captured by Allies in Lille in September 1944. Mr Fuchs was shipped to England in November, and was imprisoned under canvas in a camp somewhere in Britain; he had no idea where. "One day we saw a van delivering bread to the camp; we saw the word 'Nuneaton' written on its side. It was our

first clue to where we were — not that we knew where Nuneaton was."

The German POWs were relieved to be out of a battle they were losing. Conditions in Nuneaton at Christmas were hard but not inhumane. "Germany sent us £1 each through the Red Cross; the smokers spent it on cigarettes; I spent my pound on cakes, cocoa and pasteurised milk in the camp canteen."

In accordance with German tradition, the prisoners celebrated the festive season on Christmas Eve. "The British guards found us some musical instruments and we sang car-

ols. They sent us out into the surrounding farms to dig our own potatoes for Christmas dinner, and we supplemented that with a little corned beef and a few vegetables."

At the war's end Mr Fuchs, a Czech in the Sudetenland, had no wish to return to a homeland now occupied by the Red Army. He stayed in Britain, married an Englishwoman and now, in retirement at his home in Cransley, Northamptonshire, is admired in his adopted village and beyond for the quality of his allotment produce.

## Dunkirk hung over me like a black cloud Such a relief to have a proper home

By Bill Frost

By Alan Hamilton

DAME BARBARA CARTLAND played out a painful charade over Christmas 1944. For the sake of her young children she put on a happy face, but her heart was aching over the death of her two brothers at Dunkirk.

Dame Barbara said: "In 1944 I suppose we had the sense that the worst was over and the enemy was close to defeat. But the memory of what had happened to them in Dunkirk hung over me like a black cloud. I wanted to cry my eyes out, but I was brought up to believe that no lady ever does that in public, even in front of her close family. One stuck to the routine: dressed up to the nines and put on a brave face."

At her London home the servants were up early on Christmas morning. So, too, were Dame Barbara's three children. "After breakfast we all went to church. Religion was much more important then, so was the family; if only that were still the case. When we returned the turkey was almost ready. Although there was rationing one could always get whatever one wanted if one had enough money, and we did. There was champagne, too. I think my husband got it from his club." After lunch the family retired to the drawing room for the King's Christmas message. In the kitchen the servants, having finished washing up, prepared their own Christmas dinner.

Dame Barbara recalled: "Christmas had been such a very special time, but the death of my brothers seemed to have ruined that. My comfort now is that they come back to me, or seem to. I see them for a second in the room I happen to be sitting in and they are both smiling."



Barbara Cartland



Vera Lynn

DAME VERA LYNN'S abiding memory of Christmas 1944 is splashing out an astonishing £5 — at least £100 in today's money — for a rare delicacy, a fresh pineapple. For all her fame, the war had not been entirely kind to her. Dame Vera and her family had lived through much of the past five years in a half-wrecked house in Barking, east London. They eventually grew tired of living in the cellar to escape the bulging living-room wall that threatened to collapse at any moment, and the ceiling that gave a clear view of the stars.

"I was in a variety show at the Brighton Hippodrome in November. My husband Harry and I took the chance to look for a country cottage, and we found a house at Clayton, Holt, nine miles from Brighton. We moved in November 1944; it was such a relief to have a proper home. I think, for the first time in the war, I had Christmas off. In previous years I had been singing with the Ambrose orchestra, and we had to do whatever gig came up. But 1944 was different: I had Christmas in my own

home. We had 17 guests: my family, my parents and Harry's mum and dad, my sister-in-law and her two children, and various other relatives. The only one missing was my brother, serving with the RAF in the Far East."

Dame Vera had a record out, *I'm Sending My Blessings to Santa Claus*, which she recorded the previous April. "I can't remember what we had to eat for Christmas, apart from that pineapple but I remember that by the end of 1944 people were in a better frame of mind. We were beginning to think that the war might be coming to an end," she said.

## How hunger turned us into a nation of black marketeers

By Bill Frost

WITH remarkable frankness Philip Game, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, admitted in his annual report for 1944 that a nation of black marketeers. While there was no army of millionaire spies in camel hair coats dealing in stolen food and petrol, many ordinary Britons defied the law without a second thought. At Christmas the temptation to use the black market was stronger than ever; the lean war years had left everyone hungry. "There is undoubtedly a large number of individual transactions in the

black market," Mr Game wrote in his report. "Perhaps we do not realise that if we are prepared to accept without demand a bit more than we are entitled to, we are all to that extent black marketeers." There were no "super criminals" controlling a vast organisation with widespread tentacles, according to the commissioner. However, there were thousands like John Jack Daniels, a 44-year-old café owner from Morden, southwest London. Wimbledon magistrates fined him £20 for obtaining bacon "without authority" and soap "without a permit". Jenkins was told that "his behaviour was reprehensi-

ble, unpatriotic and, unfortunately, all too common". Black marketeers made most of their money from once commonplace foodstuffs: eggs, bacon, fresh meat and, much more rarely, fruit.

Poultry and dairy farmers were tempted by profits eight and nine times higher than prices charged by a high street butcher. The mark-up on stolen petrol was even more attractive to unscrupulous traders.

Sometimes unwittingly, US servicemen played an important part in the black economy. Their largesse — gifts of cigarettes, nylons, spirits and chocolate — was often harnessed by the profiteers.

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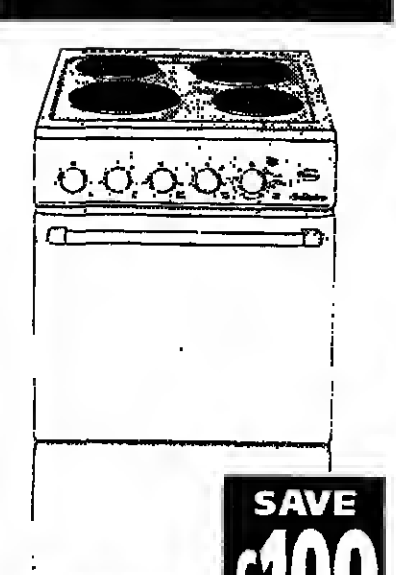
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## Grozny hints at compromise as Yeltsin's troops get bogged down

# Russians to seek fresh Chechnia peace talks

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

A NEW attempt to open talks with Chechnia's leadership was announced yesterday by Moscow's National Security Council, which is headed by President Yeltsin, as Russian troops remained bogged down and around the republic's capital, Grozny.

Mr Yeltsin had earlier said the "first stage" of Russia's military operation was coming to an end. He is due to address the Russian people about the Chechen conflict on television today.

The security council yesterday named a commission to negotiate with the Chechens. It includes Nikolai Yegorov, the Deputy Prime Minister; Sergei Stepashin, the Counter Intelligence Chief, and General Anatoli Kvashinin, commander of the Chechnia intervention force. The council statement proposed talks with "leaders of illegal arms formations", which presumably means the government of President Dudayev.

Before the council's meeting, Mr Yeltsin said it would "look at when we can wind up the participation of the military and go on to the second stage — forming administrative organs in the Chechen republic".

He implied that the Russian army already controlled Chechnia. Russian military leaders have said that the first task of the military was to surround and seal off Grozny, and they have claimed that this has been achieved. Military statements on Sunday said that up to 1,000 Chechen fighters had been killed in the fighting.

None of this is remotely true. According to latest reports from Chechnia, Russian troops have still not managed to capture the small town of Argun, just over seven miles east of Grozny, against which they launched an offensive on Friday. A second Russian column is still stationary about 28 miles west of Grozny, and refusing orders to advance. Its officers and men are becoming openly mutinous in their remarks to Western correspondents, in which they curse the Yeltsin administration and its intervention in Chechnia. The Chechen fighters remain determined and defiant, and there is no talk among them of surrendering independence as part of some political compromise.

Possibly in tune with the latest Russian suggestion of talks, there were no further Russian air raids on Grozny on Sunday night but four days and nights of repeated attacks have caused dozens of civilian deaths, many of them ethnic Russians, and left much of the city centre in ruins.

In Grozny, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the Chechen Vice-President, told the Interfax news agency yesterday that his government would no longer insist on Russian military withdrawal before talks could begin. He also said the



A Chechen woman weeps as she looks through her window at the funeral of a fighter killed near the capital

Chechen government would consider confederation with Russia.

But there is only one man who really counts in the Chechen government: Dzhokhar Dudayev, the President. When correspondents raised the question of confederation at a press conference last

week, he immediately ruled it out. Even Mr Yandarbiyev said confederation could only be between "two equal and independent states". In principle, this could hardly be acceptable to Mr Yeltsin. In practice however, the Russian President's options may be closing.

Before the security council meeting, Emil Pain, a liberal presidential adviser, told Russian independent television that "hawks" in the council were pressing for Grozny to be stormed. Saying that some members of the council were urging talks with Mr Dudayev, Mr Pain said the

storming of Grozny, with inevitable heavy casualties, would destroy Mr Yeltsin's image and endanger Russian national security.

To judge by evidence on the ground, storming Grozny may not be possible for the demoralised and poorly-trained Russia troops.

## Strange companions share basement seat of power

THE latest reports from Grozny, the Chechen capital, say the Presidential Palace has been bombed and is burning. When we last saw it, on Saturday, near-misses had reduced it to a virtual ruin and its denizens were leading a troglodyte life in the cellars.

The ugly, pompous and typically Soviet official building has had a number of different names. After the national revolution of 1991, it became the Parliament of the Independent Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, but it is today known universally as the Presidential Palace. President Dudayev's offices are on the top two floors, but the parliament no longer needs space, having been effectively suppressed by General Dudayev last year.

Many of the building's windows had already been broken in the Russian-backed opposition attack on Grozny on November 26. The rest went in the Russian bombings last week. Nobody had bothered even to tape the windows against blast. As far as I could see, the only taped window on all the lower floors — and the only one to survive last week — was that of the Chechen press information centre, which I had personally taped in an act of self-preservation.

With the windows gone, snow began to drift in. As the bombing came closer and the lights went out, the entire government moved to the cellars.

They made one of the strangest sights I have seen. Part of the basement is occupied by a huge central heating system with pipes spreading into the semi-darkness. Sitting on or between the pipes are Chechen soldiers and officials with candles, like heavily armed gnomes.

Other cellar rooms are full

Anatol Lieven, one of the last Western newsmen to escape from Grozny, reports on the surreal scene in the cellars of the bomb-damaged Presidential Palace, from where President Dudayev directs the Chechen resistance

of debris from the former Soviet bureaucracy: long rows of filing cabinets, bundles of files and heaps of Communist propaganda. These are the rooms occupied by the Presidential Guard, some of whom have a traditional Chechen look, with beards and enormous woolly hats.

Others have the broken noses, scarred faces and hard eyes of former hitmen from the Chechen mafia. There they sit, cooking their dinner with the help of the minutes of the Central Committee and direc-



A Chechen soldier patrols the streets while a house burns in central Grozny

tives on the development of the Soviet railway. Even these, however, are not the oddest inhabitants of the cellars.

Among the Presidential Guard is a solitary Ukrainian volunteer called Sashko Bily, a Neanderthal figure with a prognathous jaw, minimalist forehead and a broken nose.

He proudly shows off the armband of Unto, the virulently Fascist and anti-Semitic Ukrainian paramilitary organisation. He said he had come to Chechnia to fight "for civilisation" and "against Russian imperialism". He is just the kind of person you would expect to find in a cave.

Very different, and strange almost beyond belief, was another figure that drifted up to us through the gloom, white-bearded, dressed in a sort of white robe and wearing a tall white woolly hat with a bobble, looking for all the world like some amiable fairytale magician. He gave me his card and told me he was Master Viktor Popkov, leader of the Omega Inter-Ethnic Inter-Confessional Society for Justice and Well-being in Moscow.

As shells and bombs sent tremors through the floor under our feet, he said he had come to Grozny "to fix the principles for the avoidance of war between nations". For want of any other description, I must classify him as a saint. I hope he does not suffer martyrdom for his principles, least of all in the company of Sashko Bily.

## Gorbachev's winter slide from power haunts Yeltsin

BY ANNE MCELVOY

FOUR years ago next month, Chrys after Orthodox Christmas was celebrated as an official public holiday in the Soviet Union for the first time.

Omon troops stormed the television tower in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, in response to demands from the Baltic states for independence. Fourteen people were killed and more than 100 injured. Five days later, Omon struck the Latvian Interior Ministry in Riga.

President Gorbachev denied ordering the assaults, but he failed to condemn them, or punish those responsible, suggesting that he had lost control of events. The violence and subsequent vacillation weakened Mr Gorbachev's democratic credentials and, despite distancing himself from hardliners in his leadership, he never regained the trust of supporters of liberalisation.

President Yeltsin's fate bears some similarities to that of his predecessor. Both were modernisers whose initial popularity waned to weariness with botched reforms. Both started out as autocratic leaders, but found themselves increasingly subject to the push and pull of military and industrial forces. Neither managed to secure full control of a wayward military.

Mr Yeltsin is more decisive than Mr Gorbachev and there is no doubt that the offensive against Chechnia originated in the Kremlin, rather than in rogue sections of the military or security forces. The outcome, whether good or bad, will be attributed to the President. But there

are strong hints that Mr Yeltsin is improvising wildly now that his hope of a short, sharp outright victory has not been fulfilled.

His statement yesterday that the military stage of the mission in the rebel republic is over and that he intends to form "administrative organs" there takes no account of President Dudayev, the unpredictable Chechen leader, nor of the rebels' determination to fight on for control of the approach road to Grozny.

Absent from public life since the conflict began, Mr Yeltsin has reappeared to tell Russians what he thinks they want to hear, rather than the sober truth about the botched incursion in the Caucasus. Sergei Kovalyov, his own human rights commissioner, condemned the intervention as a "crazy massacre" run by military hardliners for their own ends. Nikolai Yegorov, the Deputy Prime Minister, has ignored Mr Yeltsin's message and urged a rapid capture of Grozny.

Meanwhile, the CIA, which warned Mr Gorbachev of the forces gathering against him before the coup of August 1991, has issued a similar prediction in a secret report delivered to President Clinton at the weekend.

A gun-ho mission to rap the knuckles of secessionists is turning into a multi-faceted embarrassment. Public support for the venture is lower than ever, although this could turn into approval if the Russians bring Chechnia back into line with minimum losses

and could stem the organised crime which flows from Grozny. But that outcome is far from certain. The strategy of bombing the breakaway republic into submission exposed the Russian leader to the accusation of using terror tactics against civilians, a severe blow to his claim to embody Russian democracy. This is presumably another reason for suspending the assaults.

However this war ends, it is going to leave Mr Yeltsin with new tensions and gaps in the already strained military. The resignation of Colonel-General Eduard Vorobyov, Deputy Commander of the Russian land forces, and the opposition to the operation voiced by General Georgi Kondratyev, Deputy Defence Minister, push the President deeper in debt to General Pavel Grachev, his bullying Defence Minister.

The Russian leader already has blood on his hands after using tanks to quell parliament's uprising in October 1993. He was baited out then, albeit after some delay, by Colonel-General Grachev, whose reward has been a large say in policy towards former Soviet countries.

Just as the Omon thuggery in Lithuania and Latvia accelerated a feeling of disappointment in Mr Gorbachev which had been heralded by brutal interventions in 1989 and 1990 in Georgia and Azerbaijan, Mr Yeltsin may find that the violence against Chechnia is seen as speeding the decline in his moral authority.

## 'Black Christmas' catches on

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IN POLITICALLY correct America, the season of celebration is far from over. Just as the Jewish Hanukkah was followed by Christmas, so Christmas yesterday gave way to the seven-day festival of Kwanzaa, which has dubbed the "Black Christmas" by its detractors.

Kwanzaa, Swahili for "first fruits of the harvest", is a celebration of black America's African heritage. It was first held in 1966 and has already achieved a remarkable status in a country where any public hint of scepticism would earn an instant smouldering.

Millions of black Americans observe it and, regardless of their colour, school-

children across America now learn Kwanzaa songs as well as Christmas and Hanukkah music in preparation for what is officially referred to as the "holiday season". Shops sell Kwanzaa greeting cards, Kwanzaa cookery books and elaborate guides on what to do at Kwanzaa time, and most cities stage a range of Kwanzaa cultural events.

The festival even warrants a presidential message. "Warm greetings to everyone who is observing the festival of Kwanzaa," President Clinton declared in this year's offering. "All of you can be proud of your efforts to infuse the holiday season with diversity and new purpose. Hillary

joins me in wishing all of you a wonderful celebration and a happy New Year."

Kwanzaa actually began as a by-product of the Watts riots in Los Angeles in 1965. It was dreamt up by Maulana Karenga, director of black studies at the University of Southern California, as a way of uniting black American communities and restoring their cultural pride.

But, although Kwanzaa is rapidly gaining ground, it has not yet replaced the chief post-Christmas tradition in this nation of materialists. Yesterday Americans flocked in their millions to the shopping centres for the first day of the year-end sales.

## 'Latin lover' star Brazzi dies

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN ROME



Brazzi: first Hollywood appearance in 1949

ROSSANO BRAZZI, the South Pacific star who broke screen hearts in "Latin lover" roles in the 1950s and 1960s, has died in Rome, Italian news reports said yesterday.

ANSA news agency quoted sources close to the Italian actor's family as saying that Signor Brazzi, 78, died on Christmas Eve in a Rome hospital from an undisclosed virus that affected his nervous system.

Signor Brazzi, who also directed, played in more than 200 films, mostly made in the United States. His first Hollywood appearance was in *Little Women* (1949). But it was *The Barefoot Contessa* (1954), featuring Ava Gardner and

Humphrey Bogart, that established him as a specialist player of handsome heart-breaker and aristocratic roles. Another 1954 hit was *Three Coins in the Fountain*.

Rossano Brazzi will certainly be remembered as one of the few Italian actors known in America as well.

Carlo Verdone, an Italian actor and director, said:

In the late 1960s signor Brazzi, who was born in Bologna, resettled in Italy, but never enjoyed Hollywood-style success.

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Marseilles drama bolsters hardline interior minister's no-compromise policy

# Paris presidential poll hijacked by crisis in ex-colony

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN MARSEILLES

THE new Algerian war finally burst on to French soil yesterday, forcing the Government of Edouard Balladur to reflect on its conduct of a confused policy that has turned Paris into the "Great Satan" of a formidable Islamic force.

"Everyone knew this was bound to happen," said Jean-Francois Deniau, a former centre-right Foreign Minister, as he deplored the way France has allowed itself to assume the villain's role in Algeria's "dirty war" by appearing to back the military-led regime of President Zeroual.

As the former colonial power and home to two million Algerians, France is the obvious target for the anger of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and the more extreme Islamic Armed Group (GIA), which hijacked the Air France airliner. However, as 22 French citizens have been murdered over the past 15 months, Paris has sharpened the enmity of the fundamentalists by waging its own crackdown against suspected Muslim activists and treating the FIS movement as terrorists.

The central importance of France as the main foreign agent in the Algerian conflict was highlighted by the hijackers' main demand before the

plane was stormed yesterday: to be able to hold a press conference to try to convince the world of the crimes and injustice which they say are being committed against their people by the Algerian authorities.

Confusion in Paris has compounded the picture, with Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister, speaking out for compromise while Charles Pasqua, the powerful and very popular Interior Minister, has taken over relations with Algeria, as a matter of national security. In a telling illustration of the

## EFFECT ON FRANCE

twin approaches, one of the most senior French military commanders last week admitted that he did not know if France had, as the FIS alleged, recently supplied the Algerian authorities with military helicopters.

M. Pasqua and his many supporters have long been adamant that there can be no compromise with a movement bent on the installation of an Islamic dictatorship. The hijackers have played straight into his hands. Their siege on the tarmac at Marignane air-

port was a direct face-off between M. Pasqua and the force which he has worked hard to diabolise.

While M. Pasqua has thundered against Islamic extremists and rounded up hundreds of suspects in France, M. Juppé has joined Britain and other European states in urging dialogue as the only solution to a war in which tens of thousands of people have been killed. M. Balladur has adopted an ambiguous stance, appearing to support both the hard and softer lines.

French leaders say privately that they believe there is nothing that Paris or anyone can do to halt the slide to full-scale war in Algeria and military officials say the conflict, carried out in the absence of any foreign media, has already reached the level of barbarism and bloodshed seen in the war led by the National Liberation Front (FLN) for independence from France three decades ago.

Impotence is the word most often voiced as France surveys the economic and social wreckage of what was once one of its most prosperous territories. "Poor Algeria," *Le Figaro* said yesterday. "Since its independence in 1962, it has been abandoned, with the support of French governments and the complicity of the Parisian intelligentsia, to the Third Worlders of the FLN, who have turned out to be redoubtable crooks and looted it."

While M. Pasqua's police-style approach is opposed by a minority in France, there is general agreement that the Algerian conflict is a big French problem and an element in the campaign for the French presidential elections in the spring. It will be seen as a measure of M. Balladur's quality as a crisis leader. On a wider level, Muslim extremism, or at least the fear of it, has replaced communism in the popular mind as the national bogey in the election campaign.

Among other actions, M. Balladur's Government has outlawed the wearing of headcovering in schools. The measure, popular with the public, has led to the expulsion of several dozen girls from schools. M. Pasqua's police are said by human rights organisations to be acting well beyond acceptable bounds in the hunt for activists and illegal residents. Their latest target is the explosion of satellite dishes on immigrant housing estates which the popular press claims are used to receive inflammatory Muslim television transmissions. Algeria is already a bigger factor in the 1995 election campaign than in any since Charles de Gaulle ended French rule there in the 1960s.

Christopher Dobson, page 12



A member of the GIGN takes aim. The group has scored notable successes, but must take inevitable risks

## France calls in elite commandos as last resort to save hostages

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

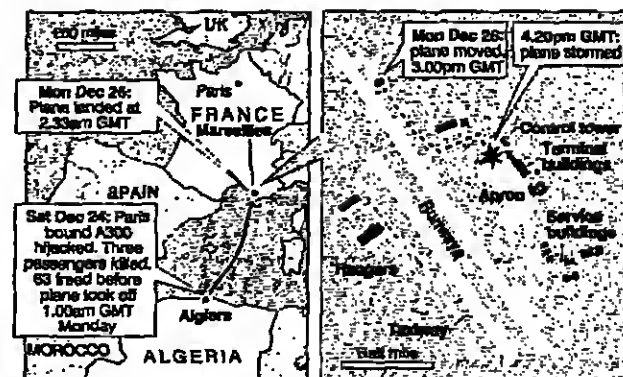
### SHOCK TROOPS

80 candidates this year. The training is tougher, lasting ten months, with the aim of turning police officers into a highly-skilled, mobile and flexible force.

The unit is divided into four brigades of 15 gendarmes, assisted by administrative staff. At all times, one brigade is ready to leave the GIGN's

base at Versailles, near Paris, within 30 minutes, and a second within two hours.

Also, they always know they could be asked to liberate hostages like the ones involved in the storming of the aircraft in Marseilles. One of the techniques they use is to approach hijacked aircraft in helicopters which initially fly sufficiently high not to be heard on the ground. Yesterday, however, the GIGN at-



## Algerians seized three planes in past year

THE weekend's hijacking is the latest in a series during the past two years.

Used initially by extremist groups to highlight their causes, in the past two years hijackings have been used increasingly for attempts at criminal extortion and for escapes from repressive regimes. There were 21 hijackings in 1993, ten of which involved "Chinese" planes being diverted to Taiwan.

There have been two airline hijackings this year linked to political violence in Algeria. **ALICANTE:** On February 28, an Air Algérie Boeing 727 with 127 people on board landed at Alicante after being hijacked on an internal flight between the Algerian cities of

### EARLIER HIJACKINGS

Oran and Annaba. The three hijackers freed 12 passengers two hours before surrendering. They were denied political asylum in Spain, which planned to try them for air piracy.

**MAJORCA:** On November 13, an Algerian Fokker 27 civil aircraft with 38 passengers and four crew was hijacked on an internal flight and forced to fly to Majorca. The hijackers, who were armed with a knife and a coffee-grinder, demanded the release of all political prisoners in Algeria, freed all the passengers and crew and surrendered to police.

## Fundamentalists target foreigners to weaken 'unbelievers'

FROM REUTERS IN TUNIS

### MUSLIMS

THE Armed Islamic Group (GIA) is considered the most radical and dangerous of Algeria's Muslim fundamentalist groups and also the most hostile to foreigners.

Algerian authorities say four of the five gunmen who seized an Air France airliner in Algiers on Saturday are members of the GIA, which is

trying to transform the north African nation into an Islamic republic.

More than 70 foreigners, among them 22 French nationals, have been killed since last year when the group gave foreigners a month to get out of Algeria or face death. In a recent interview in the Algerian daily news-

paper *Essalam*, one unidentified GIA leader was quoted as describing foreigners as "the main coronary artery" of a plan to "colonise" the country with non-Muslim unbelievers.

"Killing and fighting them is the practical message to weaken the unbeliever rulers," he said.

The GIA sometimes claims to be the heir of the first wave of Muslim guerrilla activists

in Algeria. This movement was considered to have been put out of action after its founder, Mustapha Bouyali, was shot dead in 1986 by security forces. His followers were arrested and sentenced to death, but were freed early in 1990 under pressure from the emerging Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The GIA tested its strength in November 1991 by storming an army outpost and

killing three soldiers in the southeastern town of Guemar, according to the interview with the unnamed GIA leader. The fundamentalist group said that its leaders had to take part directly in violent operations.

"They should experience armed operations and must demonstrate that they have killed significant numbers among God's enemies," the leader said. The last GIA

chief was Cherif Gousmi, known as Abou Abdallah, who was killed in a gun battle with security forces near Algiers in September.

Algerian newspapers reported in November that Abou Abderrahmane Amine, the new leader, was seeking co-operation with the FIS to confront a build-up of security forces after talks between the Government and FIS leaders collapsed.

### WORLD SUMMARY

## Six shot in Haiti protest

Port-au-Prince: Six Haitian former soldiers were shot after hundreds of them stormed into the army headquarters here to demand back pay.

General-Brigadier Mon-desir Beaubrun, who barricaded himself in his office, said he fired his gun towards the protesters in self-defence and believes that he hit at least one. Two more were shot in the street and up to three were struck inside the headquarters. It was unclear whether they were killed. American troops surrounded the buildings and arrested about a dozen of the protesting former soldiers. (AP)

## Corsican murder

Paris: The murder yesterday of the former president of Bastia Football Club fuelled tension in Corsica before next month's trial concerning the 1992 stadium disaster in which 17 people died (Adam Sage writes). Jean-Francois Filippi, 54, who was in charge of the Corsican club at the time, was shot as he left his villa near Bastia. His wife was seriously injured. The shooting came just eight days before M. Filippi and 13 others were due to stand trial on allegations of manslaughter in connection with the stadium tragedy.

## Uzbekistan poll blow

Tashkent: Uzbekistan's first parliamentary election since independence looked set to return a large majority of regionally backed candidates to power, leaving the two main parties falling far short of their expectations. No official figures were available by mid-afternoon yesterday, the day after the poll, but the ruling Democratic Party said that unofficial returns showed it would win only about 30 per cent of places in the new 250-seat parliament. (Reuters)

## Terrorism charge

Islamabad: Pakistan yesterday accused India of "sponsoring terrorism" in the city of Karachi and instructed the Indian Consulate-General there to close within ten days, reflecting a clear worsening in relations. Najmuddin Sheikh, Pakistan's senior diplomat, called the consulate "a centre for sabotage", saying Islamabad had indisputable evidence of India's involvement. An Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the claim was unfounded. (Reuters)

## Drunk driver hit airliner

Peking: A drunk, joy-riding in south China without a driver's licence, steered an airport lorry on to a runway and crashed into a passenger jet just after it touched down, an official report said. Nobody was seriously hurt in the October 28 accident in Chengdu, Sichuan, because the China Southwest Airlines Tupolev 154 managed to swerve to avoid a more direct collision. (Reuters)

## Airborne stowaway

Harare: Ishmael Nyemba, 10, tricked his way on to a Royal Dutch Airlines flight here by pretending he was following his mother. A local news agency said that cabin crew on the Amsterdam-bound flight found the boy seated in one of the front rows after take-off. He had no ticket. (AP)

## Bihac's maverick leader threatens Bosnia ceasefire

By TIM JUDAH  
BALKANS CORRESPONDENT



Abdic: his role has ghostly parallels with the last war

THE ceasefire in Bosnia-Herzegovina was in danger yesterday after President Izetbegovic issued a warning that he would end the truce unless fighting in the northwestern Bihac pocket was stopped.

At the same time, Hasan Marutovic, a member of the Bosnian Government, made clear in Sarajevo that the Government was unlikely to attend scheduled United Nations peace talks while Serb attacks continued in the northwest.

In the Bihac pocket, troops loyal to Fikret Abdic, the Muslim rebel leader, backed by Serb forces from the breakaway Krajina region of Croatia, are keeping up an offensive against government forces because they are not party to the ceasefire. Mr Izetbegovic told Bosnian radio: "If these attacks continue... our army will have to respond on other fronts."

Mr Abdic has proved to be one of the most resilient characters in

modern Bosnian history. He is a businessman at heart. Under the patronage of Hamdija Pozderac, a President of Bosnia in Communist times, he built Agrokomprom, a highly successful agricultural company based at Velika Kladusa. When Mr Pozderac's enemies sought to undermine him in the late 1980s, they did so by attacking Mr Abdic, uncovering evidence of huge financial irregularities involving Agrokomprom. Mr Abdic was jailed but was soon back on the scene, standing as a candidate in Bosnia's first free elections in 1990.

Widely popular, he received more votes than any other candidate. It was, however, Mr Izetbegovic, ironically with Serb votes, who became the first post-Communist head of state. As the war began, Mr Abdic, a reluctant supporter of independence, repaired to Velika Kladusa. From this fief he sought to keep what had become the Serb-encircled Bihac enclave out of the conflict.

He declared its autonomy and was proclaimed its "president". He

signed deals with the Bosnian Serbs and the Croats, and did business with everyone. But by last August supporters of the Sarajevo Government had mustered enough strength to drive out the man they had declared a traitor. He fled with 30,000 of his followers, most of whom are from Velika Kladusa.

The refugees found themselves trapped in Krajina, where 20,000 of them were obliged to live in poultry sheds on an Agrokomprom farm. Two months ago, when Bosnian forces broke out of Bihac, the Krajina Serbs began mobilising and arming Mr Abdic's men. With artillery and infantry support they began the offensive that continues today.

Many people in former Yugoslavia say that this war is really the continuation of the Second World War and that it has many parallels with the past. The extraordinary story of Mr Abdic is made even more so because it, too, has its ghostly echoes. Huska Mitkovic, like Mr Abdic, came from a modest back-

ground from a village near Velika Kladusa. He came to the fore during the Second World War as leader of what was called the Muslim Militia.

At first he sided with the Croatian Fascists and the Germans, but later brought his men over to the side of the partisans. Now he lies buried in the mosque of Velika Kladusa. According to a supporter of Mr Abdic: "The two men are different but their aim, to keep the region safe, is the same."

It remains to be seen whether Mr Abdic will have a postwar role to play. The Serbs are hoping to re-install him as puppet ruler of the whole region and then upset the calculations of the peace planners by claiming that the land he controls can no longer be considered as connected to the Sarajevo Government.

Huska Mitkovic did not live to see the end of the Second World War. He was murdered by fellow Muslims working either for the Serbs or the Croats - depending which version you believe.

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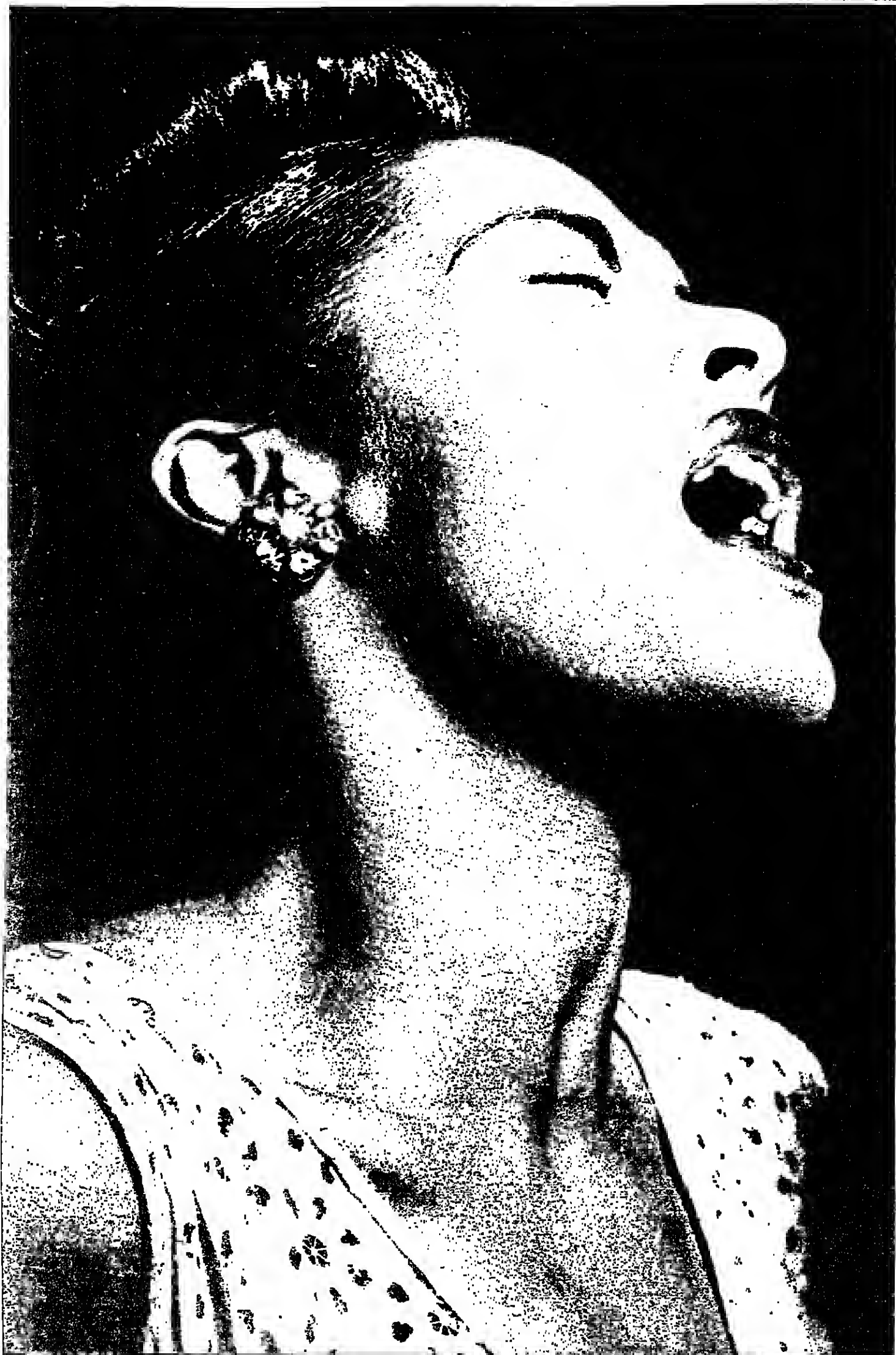
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# Notes that pluck at our heart strings

WILLIAM GOTTLEBERG/REDFERNS



The lady who sang the blues: the tragic Billie Holiday, whose wistful voice had the power to move huge audiences

Why do we love to wallow in sad music even when we feel happy? Psychiatrist Anthony Clare investigates

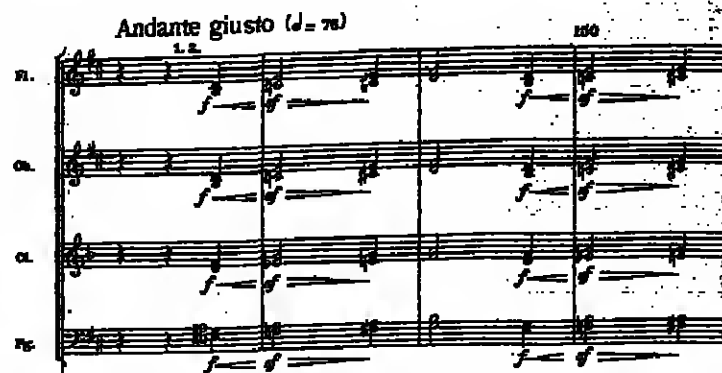
Without adultery, we would not have the Western novel, or so it is said. Without melancholia, would we have Western music? At its heart, be it classical, blues, jazz, pop, country or western or folk, is the melancholy of loss, separation, unhappiness, broken dreams, fractured hearts, what might have been and should have been and could have been. It is not unusual for patients of mine going through a bad time to mention that they cannot listen to the radio. It is too full of gloomy, nostalgic and plaintive tunes — Mahler and Morricone, Sinatra and Sibelius, Gershwin and Gorecki.

When asked for examples of particularly melancholic pieces few of us have any difficulty identifying our favourites. Denis Healey, who exults in the fact that I once described him as one of the happiest people I know (what his relatives make of him may well be quite another matter), not merely picked a Kurt Weill song but was passionate enough to sing it. For Sir Colin Davis, soon to take over the London Symphony Orchestra (he is only the third Briton to do so, following in the distinguished footsteps of Elgar and Beecham), it is the third movement from Sibelius's bleak Fourth Symphony. One of my own favourites is Ella Fitzgerald singing "Every time we say goodbye", another the Piano Trio in G minor by Smetana.

A composer does not have to be gloomy to compose melancholic music but it would appear to help. Smetana wrote his trio in the autumn of 1885 when he was in considerable distress. His first-born daughter, Bednska, who had herself shown promise as a musician, died suddenly and tragically. The opening recitative for solo violin has been described as a cry of cruel pain and a reproach to fate for having so suddenly interrupted the life of an innocent child. The piece is subjective, like so much of Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov but, argues Sir Colin, truly great melancholic music is written by composers who are at one remove from the despair, who are detached, in emotional control, and masterfully objective. They may draw on their own experiences or, lacking them, they may even contrive or "act" the feelings.

Many composers, however, had no need of acting ability. They knew very well indeed what it was like to be depressed. There is a quite extraordinary galaxy of composers who we know suffered during their lives from serious depressive mood swings, and who wrote some of the most magnificently melancholic music in the canon — Berlioz, Bruckner, Elgar, Glinka, Handel, Holst, Madder, Mussorgsky, Rossini, Schumann, Scriabin, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky.

Sir Colin's choice of Sibelius's Fourth Symphony casts an interesting light on the relationship between a composer's own mood and his composition — one commentator described the impact of the symphony as like "a cyclone that has ravaged the Sibelian landscape, leaving him in a world torn



Tear jerker: Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique" Symphony

to shreds". Sibelius wrote it around the time he underwent two operations for malignant throat cancer. Though the cancer was successfully removed, the possibility of recurrence must have dominated his thinking.

Explanations of why particular kinds of music evoke melancholic responses emphasise pitch and rhythm and pace and choice of instrument and the crucial element of key. There are few examples of melancholic music played in a major key. For my BBC Radio 4 programme on the subject, Tasmin Little elegantly illustrates the importance of key by playing a little snatch of Mozart in major and ten

whelming that singers insist on performing them at the end of a concert, so drained are they by the process of emotional abreaction involved.

Using music to help patients to abreact is one of the techniques used by music therapists. Anne Sloboda, who currently chairs the Association of Music Therapists, argues that helping patients who have difficulty verbalising to make sounds, using musical instruments such as violin, flute or drum, helps them to communicate something of their inner turmoil.

At the present time, too, brain researchers keen to learn more of the neurochemical and neurophysiological foundations of depression are using a marriage of music and magnetic resonance scanner to help them. Dr Simon Baker, a psychiatrist and research fellow at the Wellcome Department of Cognitive Medicine at the Medical Research Council, plays a piece by Prokofiev at half speed to produce a feeling of depressed mood and scrutinises the blood flow and metabolic changes in brain functions as the subject under the scanner listens. A system in the brain has been identified — the orbitofrontal cortex in the front part of the brain just above the eyes — which is associated not merely with low mood but with elevated and pleasurable mood too, a finding which provides support for the notion that listening to melancholic music produces a beguiling mixture of sad and happy sensations.

Giacomo Puccini knew all about this. He wrote *La Bohème*, he said, to make the tears flow. Merely composing the chords that accompany Mimì's death made the incorrigible romantic burst into uncontrollable weeping. The attraction is that such melancholia is under our control. We feel the emotions when we want to feel them and the way we want to feel them. If it all gets too much we can turn the music off. To that extent, listening to melancholic music may be more than the self-indulgence critics dismiss it as: it may well be good for us, providing an opportunity to stay in touch with feelings, to rehearse them, to keep them honed and in good fettle for when eventually they are needed. So go on — put on Lotte Lenya singing a bit of Kurt Weill and join Denis Healey in a good weep. It seems to help him to stay happy.

● Anthony Clare's Musical Melancholia will be broadcast on Radio 4 at 7.20 tonight.

For performers, playing the blues 'puts the pain of life into words and music'

minor and transforming a jaunty little gavotte into a sorrowful dirge. Other techniques that violinists such as she employ to deepen the emotional intensity of works such as Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto include using a muted string, playing closer to the bridge and, by altering bow pressure, making the instrument "weep". Mind you, certain instruments in Western music have only to be played in a certain manner and tears prick the eyes — the saxophone wailing, the flute bare against a bleak musical landscape, the funeral rhythmic thump of a soft drum.

How universal then is this musical language? Not particularly, according to music critics of an eclectic taste such as Ben Watson, who reviews an astonishing range of musical sounds for the specialist magazine *The Wire*. Watson plays a Burundi whispering song which sounds sinister and threatening to Western ears but which turns out to be a piece by the composer praising and celebrating the patron who had paid him. Other forms of music, most notably blues, are virtually defined in terms of mood. For performers such as Little Eddie Kirkland and Edwin Pickens, playing the blues is "putting the pain of life into words and music". Some songs are so emotionally over-

## A healthy trust

Greater honesty can do wonders for the doctor-patient relationship

MY FATHER developed palpitations a few weeks ago, felt unwell and was whisked off to the nearest casualty department to get his heart checked. Fortunately the episode was short-lived and his heart rate had reverted to normal within the hour.

The doctor on duty suggested that the palpitations had been precipitated by abruptly switching from beta-blockers — the medication he had been taking for high blood pressure — to another type of tablet. The advice to change from one to the other had come from his GP. Myself, I put the palpitations down to the stimulating mug of coffee that he'd drunk just before feeling unwell.

Either way, as his daughter I was relieved that nothing more sinister had occurred. As a doctor, however, I found my loyalty veering to the side of the GP. My father wanted to transfer to another practice, on the basis that his GP was somehow responsible for the visit to hospital. Had he been living in America he might even have threatened to sue.

I was caught in the middle, trying to explain to him both why the GP had not been negligent — since the majority of people suffer no ill-effects when they stop taking beta-blockers — and that no two individuals react in the same way to any drug. The practice of medicine in this sense is an art, not an exact science. No one could have predicted my father's palpitations, not even his GP who had known him, and his anxious disposition, for many years.

According to a recent paper in *The Lancet*, there are three reasons why patients turn to

legal action after an adverse medical event: altruism (to prevent the same thing happening to others); naked truth (to find out exactly what happened); and recompense (financial compensation or gain). With medical litigation creeping in everywhere, and the practice of ever more defensive medicine increasing as a result, surely it's time for both the public and the medical profession to take stock and join forces.

EVENTUALLY my father was persuaded to stay registered with his GP. After all, this was the first time any doubts had been sown in their otherwise long and harmonious doctor-patient relationship. I assured him that if not an apology from the GP, then a courteous and sympathetic acknowledgement of the unfortunate incident would be offered. But neither was forthcoming and the result was a widening rift between him and his GP. My loyalty swung back towards my father.

If doctors seek respect, then we must deserve it. If we wish to be seen as human beings, as fallible and as vulnerable as everyone else, then we will have to summon the courage to admit that this is indeed what we are. A sensitive explanation, greater honesty and a simple apology, where appropriate, can do wonders to the trust between patient and doctor. As does encouraging patients to hold more realistic expectations of the medical profession and to take greater responsibility for their own health.

DR ABI BERGER

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# A big nose in the whisky business

Richard Paterson first sniffed at seven. Now he is a master blender

ACROSS the table from me sits Scotland's most celebrated nose. Long, bulbous, polychromatic, this nose is more a badge of office than an organ: a nose applauded, garlanded and honoured with trophies: a nose that needs only to be tossed the finest atom of scent before it is off, lunging, flaring and imbibing its fill, never forgetting, never mistaking.

The famous nose belongs to Richard Paterson, master blender of Scotch whiskies, a professional sniffer who has been in the "nosing" business for 26 years, smelling, blending and tasting whiskies every day in his capacity as chief blender for Whyte & Mackay.

In his bailiwick he has no remote rival. This year, the 50th anniversary of the first record of Scotch whisky, he has been named Scotland's master blender, winner of the Spirit of Scotland Trophy.

The award adorns his mantelpiece in Glasgow alongside a multitude of other diplomas, awards and trophies, records of his nosing triumphs at home and abroad and of his esteemed position as "Master of the Quinch", an exclusive society of Scotch connoisseurs. He is thought to be the last remaining "nose" to have descended from a genuine nasal dynasty, which in his case goes back through three generations of Patersons.

With so many titles, it is difficult to know how to address him and so we settled simply on "The Nose" as the most appropriate. So alert to his olfactory world is The Nose, that the minute he wakes up in the morning he has a distinct picture of the weather. Rain, wind, approaching storms, a broken bottle of wine on the pavement outside his window — The Nose knows instantly what's going on outside.

When he walks into an office, he can smell whether there are more men than women, whether they are young or old. In the street he can sniff and identify expensive scents, floating behind women like rich ribbons on the afternoon breeze: he can also pinpoint who is at the other end of the bus queue who ate garlic the night before.

"I'm aware of every smell around me from the second I wake up. I pick up and mix scents in my mind, I store them away somewhere always trying to relate them back to whiskies. Blending a good whisky is a bit like doing a complex oil painting. I have to be sure that I'm selecting the right colours in order to blend them correctly to create a masterpiece."

So finely honed is The Nose's talent, that given a single whiff of a blend of 15 single malt whiskies, he can detect a change even if just one has been altered. The ability has been built up from a lifetime of daily nosings, as an amateur from the age of seven, and as a professional since he left school at 17.

Now master blender The Nose rises before seven every morning, dines on a light breakfast of tea and cereal before clambering into his white overalls and wellies to begin a day's nosing in the Whyte & Mackay "bonds", the cavernous unheated vaults

where the whiskies are blended and matured in oak casks. Marching swiftly up and down the rows of casks, he pours and noses six blends a minute and keeps this up for an hour before taking a break.

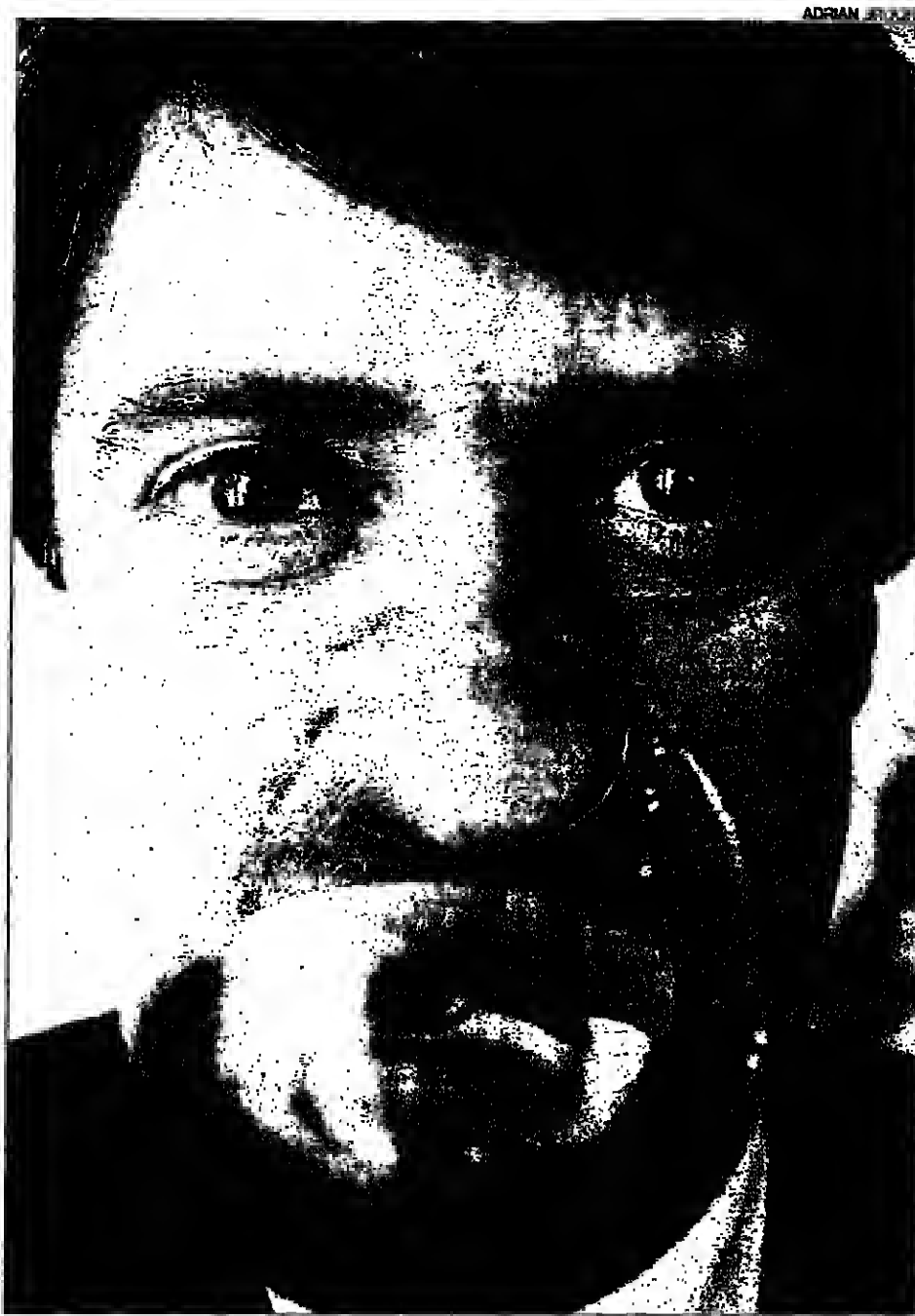
"What I'm doing is checking that the maturation process is going correctly. I can tell straightaway if a cask is leaking or giving off the wrong odours or if the blended elements are not getting on well together. Ninety-six per cent of a whisky's taste can be understood from nosing and I seldom need to drink it as well."

In an average day The Nose will get through 500 blends, observing their hues, checking their oiliness and finally, after adding a dash of hot water to

release the alcohol, savouring the smells from his nosing glass. "If you've got a big nose like me, you just literally jam it in so that there's nowhere the whisky can go but up your nose."

"YOU STICK your nose in there and you say hello. The water ensures that you get some expression right away and then gradually the whisky starts to reveal itself. You have to give it time — I try to give each one a good ten-second inhalation, to get an idea of its character."

Ever since the day his father took him into the bonds for the first time to sample and learn to distinguish the sweet from the dry, the luscious from the opulent, The Nose has been



Richard Paterson: "I'm aware of every smell around me from the second I wake up"

## How a terrible accident shed light on our thinking

### Clues in the cortex

IF WE compare animal brains to our own we find that the region of greatest change is the outer layer of the brain, the cortex. Up to a point, therefore, the cortex must be related to thinking, since humans indulge in thinking far more than other species. In higher animals the cortex is folded, "convoluted". It is important to know that the cortex remains the same thickness but its surface area has increased.

Certain areas of the cortex seem to have a clear correspondence with the motor system: at the same time, there are other parts of the cortex which have connections with our sensory systems. However, it is not as simple as it might seem. There is no direct matching of an area of your body to an area of the cortex. For example, one might expect that one's hand, which is a relatively small part of the body, would have neurons that register impulses on the hand in a very small part of the cortex. But this is not the case. In fact the hands and the mouth have an enormous representation.

Of all the cortex, the area that has increased the most in humans is the area at the front. It is called the prefrontal cortex, and during mammalian evolution it has increased 3 per cent in cats, 17 per cent in chimpanzees but a staggering 29 per cent in humans.

Our first clue to its role comes from a strange event in Vermont in the 1840s. In America at that time, railway tracks were being laid over great distances. Phineas Gage was a foreman on a railway gang and it was his job to push dynamite down a hole in order to remove any obstacles in the track. He used a tamping iron — 3ft 7in long and 1.25in at its widest point — to tamp the dynamite down.

One day Gage was pushing down the dynamite with his iron, when a spark ignited the dynamite prematurely. Gage was not killed by the explosion as you might immediately think, though his force drove the iron up through the left-hand side of his head, through the frontal cortex. After a brief period of unconsciousness, Gage came round and seemed to be remarkably unaffected. Once the initial wound had healed it was as though



Dr Susan Greenfield

nothing had happened — yet he had an iron bar through his head.

However, it was then that people started to notice the difference. Whereas before Gage had been a co-operative and friendly person to work with, he became overbearing, obstinate and uncaring of others. In fact he became so unpleasant that he had to leave his job on the railway and ended up living out the rest of his life as a fairground freak, touring around with the bar sticking out of his head.

THIS also raises more immediate questions of what this area of the brain does. Is this the area which determines character? A little later, a furrier fell 100ft from a window and the fractured bones of his skull severely damaged his frontal lobe. He, too, had been good-tempered and sociable but turned cantankerous.

These tragic accidents are interesting, because they show us that our personalities — which we think of as fairly fixed and inviolate aspects of ourselves — are really at the mercy of our physical brain. Such sad cases indicate that this area at the front of the brain is concerned not with survival, but with very sophisticated aspects of our minds.

Over the years there has

been a lot of case documentation and study on what happens when this frontal region of the brain is damaged. For example, patients who have damage in this area cannot switch rules if they are doing something. Some people refer to "working memory", where you have an idea of rules, a way of working. They find it hard to remember events in a proper context.

It is hard to sum up in one word what the function of the frontal lobes are. We certainly could not say that they are for some very specific role, such as love of one's country. It is very hard to talk about the function of a particular brain area, and this damage to the prefrontal cortex shows it. We can say that a patient has problems with working memory or social problems, but it is very hard to find out what the common factor is.

It seems, then, that although brain areas have special functions, these don't correspond one to one with obvious aspects of our character and specific activities in the real world.

Another example of why it is hard to match up the outside world with events in the brain is Parkinson's disease, named after James Parkinson, who first reported it in 1817. It is a severe disorder of movement. Patients find great difficulty in walking: they might show a tremor or limb stiffness.

Unlike many disorders of the brain, in Parkinson's disease we know exactly where the problem lies: deep down in the middle part of the brain, called the substantia nigra. There is a very specific loss of brain cells in this one particular part of the brain. We also know the chemical that is important to this is dopamine, and therefore if one tries to replace the dopamine one can restore some of the patient's motor skills.

However, even though we know all this, we still cannot say what the function of this brain area is for normal movement. We know it is important, but we do not know exactly how. People are still trying to find out, even at this very minute.

SUSAN GREENFIELD

● This is an extract from one of Dr Greenfield's Royal Institution Christmas lectures, which will be broadcast tomorrow on BBC2 at 2pm.

## Old girls get to work

Rabbi Julia Neuberger believes in networks for women — so much so that she has helped to set one up

"Setting up the old girls' network" is one of the "recreations" I list in my *Who's Who* entry. That fact is often alluded to jokingly when I am introduced — by men — as a speaker, but has never been mocked by women, because they know the importance of networking. They are all too aware that they have, on the whole, been slow to set up networks, to mirror what men have enjoyed for generations.

The lack of natural networks for women can be explained by their history. While female friendships blossomed in women's largely domestic world, there was no equivalent of the club, where one chap might say to another: "Give my son a chance in the

business. Monty old boy..." with the implication that the favour would be repaid.

Women did not network with other women much when they first reached the public domain. Indeed, those professional women who were relatively successful early on often pulled up the drawbridge behind them.

Margaret Thatcher is a case in point: she only ever appointed one woman to the Cabinet in all her years in office, Baroness Young (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster,

1981-82, Lord Privy Seal 1982-83). But she was not alone: many other women have been slow to help others, a curious reflection on a group that is always supposed to be "caring".

Last October, a new network for women was set up to remedy some of this on a large scale. Called the Minerva Network, it has a potential of more than 100,000 members, the old girls of the Girls' Public Day School Trust, a group of 26 highly academic girls' schools all over the country. At

the network's launch reception old GPDSST girls were enthusiastic about networking for business and social contacts and in order to provide advice and support for younger women coming along.

That advice might be relevant at the school-leaving stage, or for starting university, or when entering the job market or, later still, when help and advice are needed to think about career directions.

Among the distinguished former pupils of GPDSST schools are Dame Angela Rumbold, MP, who is a key player in all this, Stella Rimington of MI5, and Dame Mary Donaldson, first woman Lord Mayor of London. There are writers — A.S. Byatt, Margaret Drabble, Fay Weldon and Sally Emerson — and actresses including Miriam Margolyes, Dame Maggie Smith and Helena Bonham-Carter.

The fashion writer Suzy Menkes and the founder editor of the *BBC Music Magazine*, Fiona Maddocks, are both old girls, as is Janet Cohen, director of Charterhouse Bank and a governor of the BBC. They are, by any calculation, a distinguished bunch, and there are many, many more who have agreed to join the network.

But it is not only about networking for women's im-

mediate benefit, business or social, although that is a major part of it. It is also there to draw attention to the need for these schools for women to exist at all. For many girls, opportunities for academic single-sex education in the maintained sector are relatively few — yet evidence suggests that girls tend to do better, at secondary stage, in single-sex schools.

GPDSST schools make no bones about their selectivity. They are there to give bright girls, from whatever background, a sound academic education, and they do. The trust was founded on the principle of good affordable education for girls of ability, regardless of background, and their openness to all social groups, as non-denominational academic schools, had and has a strong philanthropic edge to it.

So the GPDSST was in the Direct Grant Scheme from 1944 to 1976, and I held one of those "free" places. Since 1980 they have been part of the Assisted Places Scheme, giving opportunities to girls whose families cannot afford the full fees to gain a GPDSST type of education, with stunning results, such as the case of Jane Lightfoot, a classicist, who won the All Souls' prize fellowship recently.

This is, of course, by no means the first women's network. There are women's networks in the City and in media: there is Forum UK for very senior women, and several more. But our network is different in scale and in kind. For its commitment lies in relationships with each other, within the group, and down the age range, to younger women and girls still at school.

It will be both social and have a cause, committed as it is to women's advancement. It will be great fun, with its huge group of women to draw on, and useful to its members and their daughters.

● Further information from Alison Graham at The Minerva Network, GPDSST, 26 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AN.

"OOOOO DO IT AGAIN!"

—Shenzi



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# Prophecy isn't always soothing

Magnus Linklater on the seer whose warnings come true

It is a pity that we have lost the art of prophecy. There are no real seers or soothsayers to whom we can turn for grim tidings of the year to come: no one to scatter the bones or dissect the steaming entrails; no Cassandra to chill the blood with fearful tales of tribulation to come.

Like previous years, 1995 will have to rely on the hit-or-miss predictions of *Old Moore's Almanac*, with its banal guesswork about royal weddings, political upsets and unspecified world disasters: or on the bland generalisations of tabloid astrologers. There is not much insight to be gained from tarot cards, Ouija boards or crystal balls when they come mass-produced in plastic with ready-made instructions.

Perhaps the nearest thing to the sages of the past are today's economic gurus, with their arcane runes and their dubious predictions. Like many prophets, they have an infinite set of excuses if things go wrong. They can blame politicians or speculators for clouding their vision, and they can rely on the kinds of evasion that have always governed the art of the futurologist: making their forecasts ambiguous, keeping the timescale flexible, and above all, not being tied to anything too specific. That way, you can always claim that eventually you will be proved right.

But the real prophets of the past played a more fundamental role than simply foretelling the future. They were commentators on their own times, consciences of the age, revered as much for their wisdom as their prediction. In the 16th century, Nostradamus was a philosopher and doctor whose predictions, most in rhymed quatrains and divided into centuries, were so obscure and enigmatic that his followers spent as much time interpreting them as in determining whether they were right or wrong. Both Catherine de Medici and Charles IX consulted him and gave him honoured positions at court — not just to know what fate had in store for them, but to share his view of their world.

No prophet, however, has been quite so bold in his assertions as the 17th-century Highlander Kenneth Mackenzie, the Brahan Seer. He operated on a narrower compass than Nostradamus, concentrating on his home territory, north and west of Inverness. But his gloomy predictions acquired such a reputation for accuracy that his fame spread throughout Scotland. Unlike Cassandra, whose warnings were ignored, Mackenzie was believed to the hilt. He is credited with foreseeing the introduction of sheep to the Highlands and the subsequent depopulation of the area, the building of the Caledonian canal, the Battle of Culloden, the arrival of the railways, even the discovery of North Sea oil. He was a back-to-basics man, predicting declining morals, "ministers without grace and women without shame". True, he passed on his grim warnings in Gaelic and in somewhat elliptical language (railways were chariots without horse or bridle; oil was black rain), but

He attached very specific conditions to his prophecies

he made up for that by attaching very specific conditions to his prophecies.

A branch of the Mackenzie clan, he said, would face ruin when a cow climbed the steps of a particular castle tower and gave birth to a calf in the topmost chamber. That unlikely event duly took place in 1851, and became so celebrated that special transport had to be laid on from Inverness for curious sightseers to witness the result. The luckless family fulfilled the prediction by dying out. He foresaw financial disaster for the McNeils of Barra when a "big-thumbed Sheriff Officer and a blind man of twenty-four fingers were found together on the island". In 1835 it was reported that a blind itinerant pedlar with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, had crossed over to Barra on the same boat as a sheriff officer who had come to serve an order of eviction on the McNeil of the day. Bankruptcy followed.

Since there was no contemporary written evidence about what the Seer had actually said, considerable licence was taken in interpreting his more obscure predictions. But to this day there are people in Inverness who will shake their heads at the warning he is said to have given about the dangers of building more than four bridges across the River Ness. The day that happened, he said, a frightful disaster would strike the entire world. In August 1939 a temporary fifth bridge was opened for a few days. On September 1, Hitler marched his troops into Poland.

Prophets of doom are rarely popular, however, and the Brahan Seer came to a sticky end. He was asked by a powerful local lady, Isabella Mackenzie, Lady Seaforth, to tell her when she might expect her husband back from a long trip to the Continent. The Seer shook his head and said he thought it might be some time yet. The lady appeared to be enjoying himself considerably in Paris and showed no sign of wanting to return. Enraged, Lady Seaforth ordered the Seer to be burnt to death in a barrel of tar.

Before his grisly end, however, he made a number of pointed predictions about the fate of the Seaforths. They would, he said, end in extinction, and no direct heir would inherit so long as one stone of the family seal, Brahan Castle, stood upon another. The Seaforths did indeed die out, and Sir Walter Scott, who knew them and the prophecy well, wrote a lament for the last of them. The title passed to a different branch, but from that day to this no direct heir has ever inherited. Soon after the last war it was decided that this run of bad luck was too great to be continued. The castle was blown up, and each stone separated from the others. The present owner, a farmer with a teenage son, waits to see whether he has done enough to placate the Brahan Seer and ensure the survival of the line.

Now that's what I call the power of prophecy.

Christopher Dobson explains how the security forces prepare themselves for terrorist hijackings

## Deadly calculations on the runway

The storming of the hijacked Airbus became inevitable once the fanatical terrorists of the Armed Islamic Group had started to kill hostages. When that happens, the deadly game of hijack chess slides out of control. The only calculation that matters then is how many hostages die, and nobody can answer that until the storming is over. The Israeli attack at Entebbe was successful. The German attack at Mogadishu was even more so. But the Egyptian attack at Luga, in Malta, was a bloody disaster.

The Algerian terrorists are so extreme that they have been disowned by the National Liberation Front, which has waged war against the Algerian Government since 1992. Where they went wrong was in demanding to fly to France. In Algiers, they could put pressure on a Government inexperienced in these matters and without a specialist group trained in resolving them.

Once in France, they were faced with a Government with an almost embarrassing profusion of highly trained anti-terrorist groups to call on. For political reasons, too, France could not allow the hijackers to succeed. It would have been a disaster for the Prime Minister, Edouard Balladur, if he had succumbed to their demands.

Perhaps their greatest mistake was to ask for fuel to fly to Paris. This raised the spectre of the plane

arriving over Paris with its 170 hostages, and the hijackers seeking early entry into paradise by shooting the pilot and crashing into the heart of the city. Had they been members of Hamas, the Palestinian fundamentalist group which specialises in suicide bombings, the chance of such a cataclysm would have verged on certainty. The Algerian fundamentalists have not, so far, shown such eagerness to die, but it was a risk the French could not ignore.

The terrorists have obviously learnt from the rash of hijackings of the 1970s and 1980s. They knew about the negotiation techniques developed by Western security forces, and had obviously been trained to counteract them. For example, they used the pilot as a "cut-out", relaying their demands through him and not allowing themselves to be drawn into negotiations in which their voice patterns could be recorded and analysed for signs of stress. They made sure the aircraft was surrounded

by lights pointing outwards, so that anyone trying to sneak towards the plane to attach listening devices could be seen. The plane itself remained in darkness.

They used the hijacker's ultimate weapon: the steady, remorseless killing of hostages. Nothing is more calculated to induce panic in a government than such a combination of medieval cruelty and modern technology. So it became obvious that the hijackers had read the reports, studied at the feet of the terrorist experts and were prepared to implement what they had learnt.

For their part, the French had also learnt the lessons of the terrorist threat. They are members of the Trevi organisation, an international consortium which studies terrorism and how to counteract it. One of their first actions once the plane had been hijacked would have been to seek from the databanks all the information on records about the men or women involved. They would already

have copied reports on the terrorists' group from their agents in Algeria.

With this information, the French would have been able to build up a picture of the hijackers, and the psychologists would have been set to work to identify weaknesses. Next, negotiators would be brought into play, seeking to establish contact and create a rapport. They would offer small concessions, agreeing to demands for, say, food, in exchange for the freeing of a few hostages.

They would talk about providing fuel, would suggest that the crew were too tired to carry on, say that fog prevented a flight to the requested destination. One trick would be to let slip that they knew the hijackers' names, thus sowing insecurity; but overall the object would be to keep the hijackers talking, to elicit more information, to hold out hope to them without giving in to their major demands. And all the time they would seek by a mixture of acquiescence and pressure to

prevent the killing of hostages.

While this exchange of pawns was going on, the security experts would be preparing the endgame. The anti-terrorist squad would have been trailing the hijacked plane. The commandos know the seat layout and the position of the doors in every type of plane they are likely to storm. They carry personal arms, stun grenades, explosives to breach the aircraft, special tools for jamming open the doors, and ladders to reach vulnerable points. They also have listening and infra-red devices to pinpoint the position of the terrorists.

The greatest need in all special operations is intelligence. They will have reconnoitred the area. The plane will have been moved to a killing ground. Only when they were fully prepared would their commandos say that they were ready to carry out the assault. Then it would be up to the politicians to make up their minds.

The troops usually prefer to go in before dawn, when the hijackers are at their lowest physical ebb, but with the threat of more murders of hostages, the French could not wait. The men of the GIGN, the National Gendarmerie's Intervention Group, did a good job. Alas, there were casualties among the hostages, but nothing less could be expected. To the French this will be the equivalent of the SAS storming of the occupied Iranian Embassy in London.

## How his genius struck me

Instead of venting his rage and hatred in physical violence, John Osborne poured out a stream of great plays

John Osborne never hit me, though he threatened to do so frequently. He threatened all theatre critics (I was one when he was in his heyday), all managers, all agents, all theatre owners, all directors, all journalists, almost all of his wives, all teetotalers and for good measure all Irishmen. But as far as I know, he didn't actually hit anybody, and the closest he got to doing so was giving instructions to people in the news who were being plagued and chased by gossip-columnists: "If physically possible," Osborne said, "push them out of the way."

But, oh, he could hate. And how he could hate. Perhaps the hate was to drain off a rage that otherwise would boil over and issue in bodily violence; perhaps, but I have never known anyone (with the single exception of Lee Kuan Yew) so devoted to keeping the hates alive.

Why? The answer cannot be that his later plays were failures, so that he became embittered: he was already hating vigorously (at 26) when his first play, *Look Back in Anger*, was staged at the Royal Court and applauded to the heavens by Kenneth Tynan. But he was hating long before he put pen to theatrical paper, for he hated — the word must be used, because he used it — his mother, nor did he wait until she died to proclaim his hatred. Indeed, his first volume of autobiography was studded with opportunities for cursing his mother, all of which opportunities he gladly took.

I dwell on the mother-hatred not only because he does, but because many people have hated their mothers, for good or bad reasons, but very few have proclaimed the hatred while the object of it was still alive. Nor, of course, was he shy of denouncing his four discarded wives (the fifth marriage endured to the end: one of the nicest things he said — publicly — of Jill Bennett was that "she was the most evil woman I have ever come across — she was a bitch", and he said it immediately after she had committed suicide. And then, in an interview with Lynn Barber, he was asked why he had a reputation for being nasty:

I don't understand it at all, I really don't. I suppose it's because of the style in which I write. Everyone expects me to be... I certainly don't try to be unpleasant.

The almost incredible thing about that remark is that it is quite plainly true: he pisses in his once-beloved grave, and he is really astonished when people find him unpleasant. This, surely, makes John Osborne a very singular person, does it not? We must dig more deeply.

He says at the end of his autobiography that his life had been ruled by passion; yes, but there are very many kinds of passion. Here is one: you have 33 guesses for the reason he



takes off his signet ring when he meets the mother of his only child — Nolan, by Penelope Giliatt. Give up? It is that he used to make a point of removing his signet ring whenever Giliatt was around, for fear he might hit her and disfigure her for life. And, in his own words, "I never did hit her, and thank God I never did, but I came very close to it once or twice."

*Look Back in Anger*: Osborne looked back, forward and sideways in anger, but it is possible — indeed, almost certain — that the anger fuelled the genius and that without it we should never have had that very substantial body of work.

I used the word "genius", should I have done so? Well, there is a test, and an uncannily apt one, which may settle the question. No one, I think, would deny the substantial quality of our most regular, inter-

esting and memorable contemporary playwright, David Hare. I now never leave the theatre after one of his plays without taking time to digest what I have heard: I take my time because I know that there are rewards for doing so, as Mr Hare digs more deeply into his theme. And yet, and yet: put Hare beside Osborne — is not something vital missing? And that something is the burning bush that Osborne swallowed many years ago, and which tore his guts until the

end, pouring out poisonous venom and at the same time pouring out plays that will be staged for very many decades to come.

It was a pity that *Look Back in Anger* was his first play: it tagged him as a "kitchen sink" playwright. (I still remember the poor devil on the *Daily Mail*, where I was then working, who was sent out to find more disgusting plays to denounce as fit for nothing but Sodom and Gomorrah: he was a man who never went to the theatre, but who found *Look Back in Anger* rather interesting; nevertheless he managed to rustle up the required *Daily Mail* denunciation.) But it took years to teach the theatre-going public (to say nothing of the *Daily Mail*) that a new and immensely gifted star had risen over the British theatre.

Just turn to *Who's Who*; if run in

place of this column, his credits would occupy fully a third of the space. From *A Cuckoo in the Nest* (in which he acted), to *God Rot Turnbridge Wells* (which he wrote and meant). But never mind the price, feel the quality. It must have put him in a rage when he had finished *Look Back in Anger* and staged it to have feather-brains saying "that's the *Look Back in Anger* man", but his retort was always there in his catalogue. The pages flutter: *The Entertainer*, *Luther*, *Under Plain Cover*, *Inadmissible Evidence* (for me, his masterpiece), *A Patriot for Me*, *West of Suez*, *Hotel in Amsterdam*, *The End of Me Old Cigar* and *Watch it Come Down*.

What went wrong? Did the stream dry up? Remember, a flop is only a play that too few people go to see: this does not mean that it is a bad play. His rancour, true, grew worse, not necessarily because his later plays failed, but the other side of the burning bush within him blazed anew, and some of his tirades were hardly coherent for the rage that he felt: his targets became the ordinary ones of the Home Counties, saying that the country is going to the dogs. Illness was added to disappointment, and when he collapsed, more than once, because he had forgotten his insulin injection, it was all too easy to categorise the falls as drunken, for the descendants of those enemies of yesterday, the gossip-columnists, their teeth long since drawn. (Mind you, he could never be tagged a teetotaler, illness or no illness.)

Towards the end, he mellowed. He denounced the modern world, but there was no real rage behind it. His fifth marriage had stood 16 years, and he learnt to laugh at himself — something he had always found difficult. I admired him immensely, for his genius first, of course, and what it had given him, but then for his iron-clad refusal to conform: some of his shouts and murmurs (many more shouts than murmurs) were silly, but he didn't care if they were, he went his ways — very many ways — annoying people who deserved to be annoyed, together with many who didn't. As I said when I started, he threatened to hit me and others but never did, but I have one such battle honour: on a railway station he declared that he would push me under an incoming train, but in the end he didn't do that either.

The fire in the bush has now burnt out, and we are the poorer for it. We have his works, which will endure; he blazed across our sky like the comet he was, and there aren't many like him left. (No, dear Mr Alan Clark will not do.) We shall miss him: even those who singed will miss him. I never spoke words as deeply felt as those I speak now, when I say of John Osborne: "May he rest in peace."

## Powell axed

ONE OF the grandest old men of the English novel displays an unsettling weakness for the flesh in his *Journals*, which are to be published next month. Not just any old flesh either: it was always Margaret Thatcher who caught Anthony Powell's eye.

Powell comments longingly on Thatcher's physical appearance

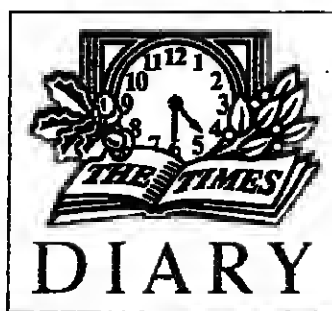


Powell: ardent Thatcherite

throughout his memoirs, entitled *Journals 1982-1986*. "I find Mrs Thatcher very attractive, if not at all easy," he wrote in 1982 after a dinner for writers at which the Prime Minister was guest of honour.

"In the course of the evening I made covert enquiries as to how others felt in this respect. Physically desirable was the universal answer."

The entry — written in his late seventies — is soon followed by another, describing a subsequent encounter with Thatcher. "I contrive to find Mrs Thatcher very attractive physically," writes the diarist. "Her overhanging eyelids, hooded eyes are the only suggestion of mystery... Her general appearance seems to justify Mitterand's alleged comment that she has the eyes of Caligula and the lips of Marilyn Monroe." Powell sat next to the Prime Minister again at supper, and comments in his memoirs on the "incredible perfection" of her hair-do. "In fact I found myself taken



back to the age of nineteen, sitting next to a beautiful girl unable to think of anything to say."

Reaction has been muted to a job advertisement placed in a national newspaper by the Oxford Concert Party, which claims to be Europe's only baroque and tango orchestra. The band is seeking a tap-dancing viola player.

### Filed spite

JOHN OSBORNE, who died on Christmas Eve, may have had the reputation of an irascible misanthrope, but he was a generous host when he entertained. Most memorable were parties in the

1960s at his Edwardian house, Christmas Place in Kent. The invitations were all-encompassing: "Mothers-in-law, dogs, kiddies, Australians and *Guardian* win-win welcome," they would say. Everyone would duly arrive to mingle with the likes of Harold Pinter, Tom Stoppard and John Mortimer, as well as sundry Australians and in-laws. Osborne would stroll through the throng dispensing largesse in his raffish Edwardian stripes.

"Guests queuing for the loo in his

LET US PAUSE FOR A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN OURSELVES



bedroom were entertained by the titles of the files on his shelves," recalls a regular. "They indicated that all the angry letters he had sent and received were kept in meticulous order."

### Big bong

THE SAMBAS in Rio de Janeiro have been more than usually energetic this Christmas because of beachside decorations. The city has applied to register one of its constructions as the largest ever Christmas decoration.

"It's the world's biggest and we've filed the proof to the Guinness Book," says Luiz Alberini Marinho, the marketing manager of Barrashopping, Latin America's largest shopping mall.

The editors are considering the application: it concerns a red bell weighing 15 tons, which measures 153 ft from top to rim.

### Lost copy

A SURE sign that the author Hanif Kureishi is reaching cult status was the theft on Christmas Eve of all 40



Wash and go: a backhanded compliment for Hanif Kureishi

proof copies of his forthcoming novel, *The Buddha of Suburbia*.

The new book by the author of *My Beautiful Laundrette* and *The Buddha of Suburbia* is to be published by Faber in April, and the proofs were awaiting dispatch from Faber's London offices, when they were purloined.

"It is an indication that there is a black market value for his books," says an insider. "Proof copies are

more valuable than first editions. They will probably turn up in various discreet bookshops in Bloomsbury in the new year."

Booksellers, however, will now be aware that all the copies are "hot", and may be reluctant to take them. Unless of course they are laundered.

P-H-S





## HIGHER THINKING

Labour moves forward on graduate tax

The Labour Party's decision to consider new forms of funding for higher education, including such previously taboo proposals as long-term student loans, strengthens its reputation as a party which can make worthwhile contributions to national political debate. The rapid expansion of higher education is one of the major fiscal and social developments of our times. The present Government has been impressively ambitious in promoting this expansion, but woefully unimaginative in addressing the financial consequences of its own educational plans.

In particular, the student loans system which was introduced to supplement and then gradually replace state student grants was badly designed and has left universities, students, their parents and the Treasury equally dissatisfied. Because the Government hoped to emulate private banking arrangements, the present scheme requires students to repay loans within five years of finding reasonably gainful employment. This short repayment schedule imposes a serious financial burden on many graduates, limits the numbers taking up the scheme, and maximises the risks of fraud and default. The financial contribution made by the scheme to the Treasury's costs has also been far too small.

Until now, a serious political debate on alternative funding mechanisms has not taken place. The specific ideas that David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, now seems to favour are imperfect. In particular, he is reported to prefer a new tax, to be levied throughout all graduates' working lifetimes, rather than a new type of loan which graduates could repay through the tax or National Insurance system over a period of years. This preference still smacks

of the party's traditional preoccupation with income redistribution and its propensity to impose new taxes as a first, rather than a last, resort. More important at this stage than the details of the specific proposals are the two principles which any sensible reform of higher education funding should enshrine.

The first is that university students should make a significant contribution to the cost of their own higher education, instead of relying entirely on their parents or the State. The second is that this contribution should be organised so as to make higher education universally affordable and avoid imposing excessive financial burdens on those who enjoy it. The present student loan system satisfies neither of these objectives. Yet they could, in fact, be readily reconciled.

What is required is a very long-term credit system, directly linking the loan taken out to the repayments required but with interest rate subsidies from the Treasury. The long-term nature of the arrangement, the lack of collateral for lenders, and the desirability of linking repayment with the graduate's income imply that a sensible system of student loans should be administered by the Inland Revenue and not by the banks or other private institutions.

But a state-administered student loan would still be a far cry from a new tax. Unlike a tax, a loan system would be voluntary in nature. The burden imposed would be limited, well-defined and directly linked to the benefits enjoyed by the borrower. Above all, the borrower's obligation to the State would be one he or she could in principle satisfy and annul. If Labour cannot see why such an obligation is preferable to a new tax, it still has much to learn.

## DEMON DELIGHT

January 1920: Prohibition declared in America

Today is perhaps the only day of the year when a proposal for Prohibition might find any ready response. After two days of over-indulgence, the body produces a chemical remorse for its sins: the very sight of alcohol can be nauseating. But though the flesh may be willing to forgo the demon drink, the spirit is weak. Four days from now most of those temporary converts to temperance will be opening bottles for the new year.

Seventy-five years ago the new year brought no such cheer to Americans. On January 16, 1920, the bars were closed, the vats were emptied and the remaining saloons in America made their last legal sale of liquor for 14 years. The 18th amendment to the Constitution of the United States came into force, and the "noble experiment" of prohibition began. It was one of the most disastrous attempts at the mass modification of behaviour ever attempted in a democracy. The 1920s were the decade of the speak-easy, bootlegging, extortion, Al Capone, the St Valentine's Day massacre, police raids on clubs and gambling houses, trips to Cuba and Canada where alcohol was legal. It was a time of political turmoil, with debate centring on the costs of enforcing the ideals embodied in the original Volstead Act. Prohibition was the result of agitation against alcohol's supposed undermining of America's war effort during the First World War. But it was preceded by a century of fervent campaigning that had its roots in the puritanism of the Founding Fathers.

By 1933, when the amendment was repealed, disillusion was almost universal. The experiment had necessitated a dozen international treaties to prevent smuggling. It led to hundreds of thousands of prosecu-

tions, undermined respect for the law, made felons of normally law-abiding people and led to the damning conclusions of President Hoover's National Commission on Law Enforcement and Enforcement. Yet the echoes lingered long after repeal. It was not until 1966 that Mississippi became the last state to scrap its "dry" laws. Many counties in Southern states still enforce "brown bag" laws to cover the public display of drink.

So searing was the Prohibition experience that few Western countries have attempted it since. Curbing the consumption of alcohol, however, has been an abiding preoccupation of lawmakers, and all manner of partial, local or temporary bans have been introduced. Preventing the sale of drink during or before football matches is a main weapon in the fight against hooliganism. Coventry introduced a ban on drinking in designated streets in 1988 to cut down rowdiness and street brawls, and six other cities followed. President Gorbachev, notoriously, tried to curb his fellow Russians' fondness for vodka, earning their undying contempt. Several Muslim countries have introduced complete bans on the sale and consumption of alcohol, with flogging and imprisonment as penalties.

Almost all such attempts have failed. Human nature has generally won the day. Even in Coventry it was found after two years that drunkenness, brawling and disorder had risen by 20 per cent. Indeed, there is some evidence that relaxation of licensing laws can reduce binge drinking. But for those who believe that intake of alcohol should be systematically restricted, there is always the body's temporary weapon: the hangover.

## A PATRIOT FOR US

Osborne was a unique observer of English life

John Osborne will be remembered as far more than a great playwright. The opening of *Look Back in Anger* on May 8, 1956 was indeed a transforming moment in the history of British theatre, the birth of an era of "angry young men" and kitchen-sink drama. "This last particular date seems to have become fixed in the memories of theatrical historians," wrote Osborne laconically in his first volume of autobiography. He knew full well the significance of what he had done. Yet his legacy will not be confined to this particular dramatic achievement.

In one sense, it was Osborne's misfortune to write a masterpiece so early in his career. Invited by Kenneth Tynan to "make history" at the National, he replied: "Thank you, I've already made it." This was arrogance tinged with melancholy. After *Look Back in Anger*, the visits of the muse were capricious. Although *The Entertainer*, *Luther* and *Inadmissible Evidence* are great plays, many that Osborne wrote are not. It is a reflection of his significance as a writer that this matters so little. He will be judged not only as a dramatist but as a chronicler of post-war England and its foibles.

Some of Osborne's writing bears the ugly imprint of personal vendetta. His vicious attacks upon his mother and former wife in two volumes of memoirs diminish him as much as them. Yet these books are key texts for those who would understand English society in the last half-century. Osborne was fearlessly candid in his description of class mores in his youth and the tedium of a

stultifying English upbringing. His descriptions of a family for whom "disappointment was oxygen" are unforgettable.

What distinguished him from many contemporary dramatists was a love of his country, its customs, music and liturgy. Sometimes this love was expressed in anger. The main character of *The Entertainer*, the music-hall comedian Archie Rice, was often assumed to be a metaphor for national decline. Earlier this year, Osborne published a collection of prose writing called *Damn You, England*. In truth, however, most of his invective was aimed at Englishmen, rather than England. During the 1961 Berlin crisis, he wrote a "letter of hate" to *Tribune*. "It is for you, my countrymen," he explained. "I mean those men of my country who have defiled it." This was the voice of a true patriot, outraged by the blunders ruining his homeland.

Those who claim that Osborne underwent a character change from angry young man to clubland reactionary underestimate him. He was that rare thing, a persistent rebel. He revolted against the political correctness and nonsensical European bureaucracy of recent years as vigorously as he had revolted against the stuffy post-war Establishment. Behind his cynicism lurked the belief that intelligent objection was worthwhile. "There aren't any good brave causes left," rages Jimmy Porter, the anti-hero of *Look Back in Anger*. It is a tribute to John Osborne's belief in the power of writing that he never quite believed this.

## 'Lack of interest shown by MI5 in agents of influence'

From Mr Tony Kerpel and others

Sir, In the furor over the Richard Gott affair (letters, December 13, 16, 20) insufficient attention has been paid to one significant feature — the inability or unwillingness of the Security Service, MI5, to counter the activities of agents of influence.

The Times has done more than most to highlight the difference between two wholly distinct types of KGB agent: the intelligence (or espionage) agent, and the agent of influence. The former were spies passing Western secrets to Moscow, whilst the latter were propagandists feeding Moscow disinformation to the West.

Both forms of activity are subversive but, since they are not spies, KGB agents of influence like Gott cannot be prosecuted in peacetime. It is precisely because the only sanction against them is exposure to the contempt of their fellow citizens, that their identities should no longer be concealed.

According to MI5 "sources", however (report, December 10), the intelligence services do not wish to be seen to be "engaged in a witch hunt against former Soviet agents of influence" and would only take action where such treacherous behaviour had broken the law. Since it is not illegal to co-operate in peacetime with hostile intelligence agencies to feed Western media with disinformation, this means that MI5 has a policy of doing nothing at all to punish or deter agents of influence.

The exposure of KGB agents of influence involved in the British anti-nuclear movement would have had as dramatic an impact in the 1960s and 1980s as the exposure of Mussolini's funding of Mosley's Fascists in the 1930s. In both cases MI5, as usual, kept what it knew to itself. That is partly why, in 1981, we felt it necessary to set up a campaigning group, funded by individuals and institutions in friendly Nato countries, in order to counter subversive propagandists in peacetime.

Those of us who actually traced and publicised direct links between Soviet-inspired "peace" campaigns and their Western mouthpieces were denounced as "witch hunters", no matter how accurate our evidence.

For example, in May 1984 the then Editor of *The Observer* described our detailed exposure of the links between the Soviet-controlled World Peace Council and a group called "Generals for Peace" as "an attempt to smear the names of a number of distinguished former Nato officers".

The Press Council — on which sat a member of the World Peace Council — refused even to consider our complaint against *The Observer*, giving

no word of explanation for its decision.

It was not until ten years later, when the danger had passed, that "Generals for Peace" was finally revealed as having been organised by the Stasi, under the direction of the KGB.

Is the situation any better now? We doubt it. The Security Service still compares the deserved exposure of hostile agents of influence, or even misguided extremists, with a hunt for mythical "witches". Last week the press dramatically reported how the new Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee will be holding its supervisory meetings in a "secure cell" which will be regularly swept for bugs.

Yet, on that committee sits an active left-wing Member of Parliament, Mr Allan Rogers, who has applauded the activities of the WPC and of a similar North Korean propaganda front, who called the headline Communist coup leaders "patriots of Grenada" after their conviction for murdering their predecessors; who mourned the death of the Spanish civil war Communist, La Pasionaria; who described Nato cruise missile bases in Britain as being "under United States occupation"; and who backed Marxist regimes in Angola and Nicaragua while praising the "fortitude and resolve" of the Wapping pickets.

None of this makes Mr Rogers a spy, or even an agent of influence. It simply serves to illustrate why agents of influence and fellow-travellers need fear as little opposition from the Security Service in the future as they have done in the past.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY KERPEL,  
EDWARD LEIGH,  
JULIAN LEWIS,  
Policy Research Associates,  
35 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1,  
December 20.

From Captain Richard Sharpe, RN, Editor, *Jane's Fighting Ships*

Sir, Your leader of December 16, "The voice of the swamp", goes to the heart of the Gott affair.

The popular view of spying involves hidden cameras, dead-letter drops, clandestine meetings and the whole paraphernalia of gathering and passing on classified information. In war, much of this effort is based on the need to know the enemy's strengths and immediate plans, many of which have a short shelf-life.

In more leisurely times, espionage by influence is potentially much more damaging. For example, decisions affecting our future military capabilities

are in theory taken after long deliberations scrutinised by many committees. In practice, the whole procedure is open to strong-minded and hostile individual influences, right up to the stage of the final ministerial signature. Those influences can come from anywhere, whether politician, civil servant, defence scientist or academic, or even from serving officers.

Suborn one or two key people from each of these groups and instruct them which way to work, and the process, unlike conventional spying, has no risks and leaves no traces other than "red gold". At least Gott worked for the open press.

Gordievsky should be encouraged to reveal all he knows, even though this will go against the instincts of an Establishment which hates witch hunts, and the British public who prefer the cock-up to the conspiracy theory of governmental failures.

Even if the evidence is insufficient to bring someone to court, those who have sold their country in the last forty years should at least be made to sweat. It will discourage others from entering the same swamp.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD SHARPE,  
Editor, *Jane's Fighting Ships*,  
Foundry House,  
Kingsley, Bordon, Hampshire.

From Mr William M. Clarke

Sir, Mike Hyde's experience with the persistent inquiries from the Soviet trade delegation (letter, December 13) was mirrored, almost precisely, a decade or more earlier, between the late 1940s and the early 1960s, when I was on *The Manchester Guardian* and *The Times*. The ubiquitous "Mr John Brown" of MI5 (or was it MI6?) was already on the alert. Sometimes he appeared from the Foreign Office, sometimes claiming journalistic interest. I rarely curbed Soviet curiosity, or persistence.

I came to the conclusion that the simple act of initiating action of any sort earned kudos for the trade delegation back in Moscow, almost irrespective of the outcome. On one occasion the Soviet financial attaché, from whom I wanted details of Soviet gold sales, handed me a long printed list of trade and financial questions before we had even ordered lunch, but never raised the matter again, then or later. Perhaps he realised that *The Manchester Guardian* in those days offered less fertile ground than it apparently did later.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM CLARKE,  
37 Park Vista, Greenwich, SE10,  
December 14.

## London's cars and parking dilemma

From Mr Peter Cuming

Sir, Your headline "Car commuters to be squeezed in roads U-turn" (report, December 19) seems to be extravagant in using the term "U-turn". Stephen Norris, the Transport Minister for London, so far seems to have undergone only the initial stage of a Pauline Damascene conversion experience, in so far as he has been struck down and cannot see a thing.

To welcome the Heathrow Express, Jubilee Line extension and Channel Tunnel rail link as significant alternative transport for the motorist is indicative of how out of touch our transport planners have become.

One will connect air travellers to one of London's least accessible rail termini — Paddington. Another will connect central London to a largely uninhabited dockland and the last when it arrives will dump continental passengers at an already seriously overloaded hub of the Underground network — King's Cross/St Pancras.

How Mr Norris can believe that any of these developments will be welcomed by motorists is a mystery, like most of British transport policy.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER CUMING,  
34 Savernake Road, NW3,  
December 19.

From Mr T. W. Wiseman

Sir, That the Government is to reduce the number of car-parking spaces in new developments in London is an ideal opportunity for MPs to show us the way by reducing the number of spaces available to them in the Palace of Westminster. If part of their car park were converted to office and storage space it might stop their continual moaning about lack of facilities and could even give the Leader of the Opposition a secure office.

Yours faithfully,  
TERENCE W. WISEMAN,  
Conway House, Kilnwell Road,  
Market Rasen, Lincolnshire.

From Mr John Tovey

Sir, Your report says that car-parking spaces are being reduced from 359 to just 22 when the Department of Transport moves to its new headquarters. Twenty-two seems a strange number. Is that more to do with available space, or the number of people who make the rules?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN TOVEY,  
18 Highfields Drive, Bilsthorpe,  
Newark, Nottinghamshire,  
December 20.

## Plain sailing

From Mr Donald Macintosh

Sir, No doubt Cunard is the subject of well deserved criticism over the QE2 (letters, December 21, 22, 24). However, a few weeks ago my wife and I returned from a ten-day cruise in the Pacific, starting in Sydney, on another Cunard ship. I can only say that it would be difficult to fault the experience.

We boarded ship with a minimum of fuss. We were served tea sailing out of Sydney harbour, and found our baggage in our cabin afterwards. Meals were consistently good, and the multinational crew pleasant and attentive.

Films relevant to the itinerary were shown on cabin TV and the nightly

entertainment could have graced any West End stage. Everyone I spoke to had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Incidentally the ship was built in Spain and registered in Panama. It seems as if in the rundown of our merchant fleet and shipbuilding capacity we are accomplishing what the U-boat failed to do.

Since cruising is a rapid-growth industry, can we not halt the terminal decline in these industries? If Mr Major wants to put the Great back in Britain (letter, December 22), I suggest he start here.

Yours,  
DONALD MACINTOSH,  
Casa do Canto,  
39 Highland Road,  
Turret Park, Crief, Perthshire,  
December 24.

## Glenn Miller memory

From Mrs Mary Sims

Sir, Mr Victor Sylvester Jr says (letter, December 21) that he has never heard it mentioned that Paul Dudley was Glenn Miller's companion on the ill-fated flight. The reason is simply that Paul was not on that flight.

At the time I was receptionist at the Mount Royal Hotel, which was Glenn and Paul's London base. They left the

hotel together for their base in Bedford and the flight to Paris.

When we heard the news of the air crash and Glenn Miller's death, we naturally assumed that Paul had also perished. To our great surprise he walked into the hotel some time later, alive and well, and I spoke with him.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY SIMS,  
Maltins, The Green,  
Foxton, Cambridge.

## Tate paintings blush unseen

From Mrs Jenny Pery

Sir, What exactly are the Tate Gallery's obligations to the public in their role as guardians of some of the nation's works of art? Over the past five years I have been involved in organising retrospective exhibitions of three lesser-known 20th-century English painters — Solomon J. Solomon, Claude Rogers and John Dodson — whose very best work is in the Tate collection, often there as a result of a family bequest.

On each occasion my request for a loan of the paintings — necessary focal points in the exhibitions — has been refused. Many different reasons for refusal have been given, the oddest being that the picture (one of Solomon's) was not in a fit condition to show.

None of the paintings requested has ever been on show on the walls of the Tate. Each of the pictures I required for a public airing had a relatively low intrinsic value — its historical interest being paramount — and in each case the exhibition took place in a reputable gallery equipped with the necessary security arrangements.

Why does the Tate impose such restrictions on its ever-growing collection? Is the public, to whom these pictures supposedly belong, never to see the more minor paintings which lurk in its storerooms?

Britain has always produced a rich and eccentric collection of talented, thoughtful, sensitive and underrated painters. The best of their work seems destined to blush unseen.

Yours truly,  
JENNY PERY,  
Holme Brake, Bovey Tracey, Devon,  
December 24.

## Bankside competition

From the Director of the Tate Gallery

Sir, Professor Sir Edmund Hoppold, in his letter of December 19, complains of the exclusion of building engineers from the Tate Gallery's competition for its planned conversion of the redundant power station at Bankside into a new Gallery of Modern Art.

The competition is intended to select an architect and not a design; but this does not mean that the trustees have no aspirations for a high quality of creative engineering. Indeed, they have benefited from first-class engineering advice throughout the initial feasibility studies and in the development of the competition.

The gallery has recently advertised for structural and building services engineers for Bankside. We expect them to make a significant contribution to all our projects, large and small. Those practices taking part in the competition will have ample opportunity to demonstrate their creative abilities.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS SEROTA, Director,  
Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1,  
December 20.

## Sanctity of the home

From the Reverend Beverley Coleman

Sir, It was I who baptised Jonathan Powell in 1960 (letter, December 13), in his parents' house in the Sumatra jungle. I have also had, on two occasions, to baptise children at sea.

The first was on board the P&O *Carlu* in 1954, and I retain a printed card recording all the details, including latitude and longitude. I had some difficulty with the other, on the ill-fated *Willem Rups* (later the *Achille Lauro*), which was then a Dutch ship. However, the font in both cases was the ship's bell.

In those days, by the way, all baptisms at sea were customarily registered at St Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney, known as the Church of the High Seas.

Yours faithfully,  
BEVERLEY WARREN COLEMAN,  
44 Walnut Crescent, Frintlands,  
Malvern Wells, Worcestershire.

## Liberal disposal

From Dr Tim Bradshaw

Sir, It is becoming clearer that we have a liberal government in power rather than a conservative one. Would it prove an interesting holiday game to list the institutions which have not been "conserved" by HM Government over the past few years? Perhaps I might begin with St Bartholomew's Hospital, the coal industry, Sunday, and Rover?

TIM BRADSHAW,  
54 St Giles, Oxford,  
December 23.

## Bread sauce

From Mrs Jan Prebble

Sir, Whatever has happened to bread sauce? I have now eaten in three restaurants purporting to serve a "traditional" dinner at Christmas with "all the trimmings" and there has been no sign of this absolutely delicious, very traditional and quite essential trimming, which complements the turkey meat so perfectly.

Yours sincerely,  
JAN PREBBLE,  
905 Nelson House,  
Dolphin Square, SW1,  
December 26.



## SOCIAL NEWS

### Birthdays today

Miss Anne Armstrong, American diplomat, 67; Viscount Astor, 43; Sir Gordon Brunton, former president, International Thomson Organisation, 73; Captain N.F. Crump, race-horse trainer, 84; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Thomas Devitt, shipbroker and former rugby player, 92; Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach, 53; Air Chief Marshal Sir Derek Hodgkinson, 77; Viscount Knutsford, 68; Miss Pat Moss, former rally driver, 60; Professor D.H. Northcote, former master, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 73; Sir William Purves, banker, 63; Professor B.R. Rees, former principal, St David's University College, Lampeter, 75; Sir Norman Reid, former director, Tate Gallery, 79; Dr E.C. Salt-house, master, University College, Durham, 59; Lord Sterling of Plaistow, 60; Miss Janet Street-Porter, broadcaster, 48; Miss Polly Toynbee, journalist and broadcaster, 48; the Right Rev A.M.A. Turnbull, Bishop of Durham, 59; Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, former director, WRAC, 91.



Gerard Depardieu, the actor, is 46 today

### Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Johannes Kepler, astronomer, Weil der Stadt, Germany, 1571; Sir George Cayley, pioneer of aerodynamics, Scarborough, 1733; Louis Pasteur, chemist and bacteriologist, Dole, France, 1822; Marlene Dietrich, actress, Berlin, 1901.

**DEATHS:** Pierre de Ronsard, poet, Tours, 1555; George Barrington, pickpocket and writer, Parramatta, 1804; William Jay, dissenting minister, Bath, 1833; William Armstrong, Baron Armstrong, inventor, Northumberland, 1900; William Archer, journalist and dramatic critic, London, 1924; Sergey Yesenin, poet, Leningrad, 1925; Max Beckmann, Expressionist painter, New York, 1950; Lester Pearson, Prime Minister of Canada, 1963-68; Ottawa, 1972; Houari Boumedienne, President of Algeria, 1965-78, Algiers, 1978; Hoagy Carmichael, pianist and composer, Palm Springs, California, 1981.

Charles Darwin set sail in HMS Beagle from Plymouth on his voyage of scientific discovery, 1831.

The first performance of J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* took place at the Duke of York's Theatre, London, 1904.

The Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay Acts came into effect in Britain, 1975.

### Fortcoming marriage

Mr M.C. Hare and Miss P.A. Tomlin. The engagement is announced between Michael Charles, only son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Hare, of Baldock, Hertfordshire, and Pauline Ann, youngest daughter of Mr Robert Tomlin and the late Mrs Dorothy Tomlin, of Rayleigh, Essex.



The architects, left to right, Dermot O'Hagan and Ciaran Mussen with Peter Rossiter, hotel manager, in front of the Downshire Arms

## Community pride finds a focus in new hotel

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A COMMUNITY group in Hilltown, Co. Down, who converted a derelict courthouse in their village into a smart hotel, has won the Rural Issues section of *The Times* Community Enterprise Awards.

The Clonduff Development Enterprise (CDE) raised £30,000 in Hilltown towards the cost of renovating the early 19th-century building which they described as a symbol of the area's economic decline.

They raised the rest of the money, which came to nearly £1 million, with grants and loans from the Department of the Environment, the International Fund for Ireland and Newry and Mourne Dis-

trict Council. The Downshire Arms Hotel, which dominates the village of Hilltown in the picturesque countryside between Newry and the Mourne Mountains, is now a thriving business catering for office parties and wedding receptions.

Dermot O'Hagan, vice-chairman of the CDE, says that the building, which had been derelict for six years, was in such a poor state that it had to be gutted. "The roof had gone, the windows were non-existent, the floors were rotten and there was water penetration everywhere," he says. "We just worked from the shell of the building." The community group appointed a local architectural firm and



a local structural engineer and quantity surveyor. The building work was put out to competitive tender and was completed on target last autumn.

Smaller buildings in the courtyard had to be demolished because they were in such a poor state. But pillars from the old building were

used in the construction of self-catering apartments. Ciaran Mussen, who helped with the design, said that preserving the pillars was a painstaking but worthwhile job. "Each stone had to be numbered, photographed and then put back in place."

A local hotelier now runs the establishment, which has two function rooms, a restaurant and seven self-catering apartments. The hotel employs ten full-time staff and 20 part-timers. Peter Rossiter, the manager, says: "Business is good. People are coming from a 40-mile radius."

Mr O'Hagan says that the project has acted as an important catalyst for the revitalisation of Hilltown. "It has renewed a sense of pride in the village. People didn't feel

that before." He says that new businesses have been attracted to the village and shopkeepers have smartened up their premises.

The community group also hopes the hotel will attract tourists on their way to the Mourne Mountains. "We want to market Hilltown as a better way of travelling there."

The refurbishment of the Downshire Arms Hotel has won the Rural Issues award, supported by the Rural Development Commission, in the 1994 Community Enterprise Awards sponsored by The Times and Touche Ross and organised by Business in the Community. The awards will be presented by the Prince of Wales in Manchester on February 8.

## Archaeology

### Early dwellings found preserved in estuary

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

WOODEN buildings and trackways nearly 2,400 years old have been excavated below high tide mark in the Severn estuary. The remarkable conditions of preservation include "thousands of cattle hoof-prints" around the buildings, according to Dr Martin Bell of the University of Wales at Lampeter.

The site lies on the Welsh shore between the Severn Bridge and Newport, where the river widens into the Bristol Channel. It is exposed for only six hours a day at low tide, and is often obscured by mud.

The bonus has been that the constant waterlogging has protected the timbers of the buildings, and one exceptionally well-preserved house has been totally removed for reconstruction at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff. Its walls are of oak planks, and both radiocarbon and tree-ring dating place the settlement around 400 BC.

Fourteen trackways, most of them of brushwood and rails pegged on to the surface of the mud, have been found. One substantial track consisted of diagonally driven stakes supporting a raised timber and brushwood walkway across flooded marshland, and has been traced for 100 yards out towards the river.

Part of a Bronze Age plank-built boat has been found, dated by its tree rings to around 1,000 BC, and traces of a Mesolithic settlement thou-

sands of years earlier still have been encountered. These settlers of around 6500 BC apparently burnt local woodland as part of their gathering and hunting activities.

The Goldcliff settlement stood on a low island in what was then a bog, which in prehistoric times covered much of the area east of Cardiff; it was later drowned by rising sea level, only to be discovered in 1990 by Derek Upton, a Llanwrnog steelworker and amateur archaeologist.

"The zone between Newport and the new Severn Bridge appears to be the richest area of intertidal archaeology yet found in Britain," Dr Bell said. "These discoveries highlight the potential of the intertidal zone where the sea is cutting into ancient peat bogs and river channels, which are key contexts for the survival of waterlogged archaeological sites."

Since their discovery, the Iron Age houses have been excavated in as much secrecy as possible because of the vulnerability of scientific interest (SSSI), and because of the dangerous nature of the intertidal area, Dr Bell said.

The project had been successfully completed, but there had been "catastrophic" tidal damage earlier this year. Also, development pressure around the new Severn crossing was threatening the survival of an entire, and until now amazingly preserved, prehistoric landscape.

## City centre dig reveals big medieval friary

By NORMAN HAMMOND

ONE of the largest medieval friaries in England has been uncovered in the centre of Lincoln. Lying on the site of the city's new central library, this earlier centre of learning and contemplation had two cloisters and a large church.

The Franciscan friary occupied the site from around AD 1230 until its suppression by Henry VIII in 1539. It covered an entire block in the southeastern quarter of the former Roman town, bounded on the east by the surviving Roman city wall.

One building, the Greyfriars, still survives in good condition: it is believed to be "the most complete example of a first-generation Franciscan building in the country", according to Mike Jarvis of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit.

"It is thought to represent the friary's first chapel, and was converted into an infirma-

ry, guesthouse or hall around 1270," he said. A large part of the refectory was uncovered, revealing a 15th-century floor of glazed Flemish tiles and a large external chimney. Next door was the kitchen, with hearths constructed from recycled roof tiles.

An open area in the angle between the kitchen and refectory buildings is thought to have been a "little cloister", with a cloister-walk running north to the Great Cloister on the south side of the friary church. A building with buttressed walls may, it is thought, be the remains of the Guildhall given by the Franciscans to the city of Lincoln in 1237.

Archaeologists will continue to monitor the contractors' work on the new library into 1995, when, Mr Jarvis said, it is hoped more of this important site will be revealed. Source: *Rescue News* 62: 4-5.

## National Trust seeks £1m to buy castle

By MARCUS BINNEY

THE National Trust is looking for a £1 million donation to enable it to buy one of the finest castles in northwest England. Appleby Castle in Cumbria stands in a magnificent hilltop position over the River Eden and comes with a separate well-preserved Norman keep, as well as numerous cottages and 30 acres of ground.

Martin Drury, director designate of the Trust, says: "This is a very romantic and beautiful place, the climax of one of the most perfect small towns in England."

The castle is famous above all for its association with Lady Anne Clifford, who ranks with Bess of Hardwick as one of the great women

builders of English history. A committed royalist, she returned to the region on the execution of Charles I and became a great public benefactor, restoring castles and churches damaged in the Civil War and building almshouses.

The castles has been put on the market by Fergusson International Holdings which has restored the property over the last 15 years, using it as a headquarters and training centre, but regularly opening it to the public. The company is moving south.

Oliver Maurice, the trust director in the North West, said: "It will be an economic disaster for the town if the castle closes its gates. It has 40,000 visitors a year and is a major catalyst for local trade."

Acquisition by the trust would enable the castle's collection of paintings to be returned. It was purchased by the Abbot Hall Art Gallery in 1981 with a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, but only some of the 60 pictures are on display.

Alastair Laing, curator of paintings at the National Trust, says: "This is one of the most remarkable survivals of a collection of portraits of a major family in the land. There are magnificent full-lengths in splendid frames and a spectacular secular triptych, already on loan to the castle, showing Lady Anne at three stages of her life and describing her family, education and achievements."

The historian John Harris says: "Appleby is like a great

French or Irish town. The street leads straight up to the castle. At the bottom is the church with a splendid heraldic tomb of Lady Anne and her mother. At the top, by the castle gate are Lady Anne's almshouses. The grounds are still recognisably an ancient deer park with magnificent views down to the river and across to the hills."

John Martin Robinson, an architectural historian who lives near by, says: "This is a great historic house which passed by descent from the reign of James I until it was sold in 1962. There is nothing like it in the North West. We are concerned it will be bought by a developer who will sell off the cottages and obtain planning permission to build in the grounds."

## University news

London: Queen Mary and Westfield College. Faculty of Laws.

Appointments: Drapers' Chair of Law: Dr Alan Norrie, Senior Lecturer, School of Law, University of Warwick.

Chair of Law: Professor Katherine O'Donovan, Professor of Family Law and Legal Theory, University of Kent.

Herchel Smith Chair of Intellectual Property Law: Professor James C. Lahore, University of Melbourne.

Professorial Research Fellow: Dr S D M McConville.

Promotions: Ms Geneva Richardson (Reader), Professor of Public Law; Mr John Yelland (Senior Lecturer), Professor of Law; Mr C.M. Reed (Senior Lecturer), Reader in Information Technology Law; Ms Geraldine Van Buuren (Lecturer), Senior Lecturer.

Other appointments: Professor Ian Fletcher to be Direc-

tor of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies; Professor John Yelland to be Head of the Department of Law.

Manchester: Professor Wilfred Robin McDonough to be Director of Information Systems from March 1, 1995.

Simon John Bulmer, Reader in Government, to be Professor of Government from a date to be arranged.

Norman Myron Geras, at present Reader in Government, to be Professor of Government from a date to be arranged.

David Cesarani, at present Director of the Institute of Contemporary History and Wiener Library, London, and Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at University College London, to be Professor of Judaism in Modern Times in the Department of Religions and Theology from a date to be arranged.

Dr Pedro Ricardo Lowenstein, at present Lister Research Fellow and

Senior Lecturer in Neuroscience at the University of Wales College of Cardiff, to be Lister Institute Professor of Molecular Medicine and Gene Therapy from a date to be arranged.

Professor Anatoly I. Ruban, at present Professor in the Department of Aeromechanics and Flying Techniques of the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and Head of the Viscous Fluid Dynamics Department in the Central Aerohydrodynamic Institute (TsAGI), Moscow, to be Professor of Computational Fluid Dynamics in the Department of Mathematics and in the Manchester School of Engineering.

Richard John Balmont, at present Reader in Zoology in the School of Biological Sciences, to be Professor of Zoology from January 1, 1995.

Appointments: Senior Lecturer (non-clinical) in

Medicine, Catherine M. Kelly; Senior Lecturer in Transplant Immunology in the Department of Medicine, Trudie E. Roberts; Lecturer in Civil Engineering, Daoyi Chen; Lecturer in Communications in the Manchester School of Engineering, Timothy O'Farrell; Lecturer in Pure Mathematics, Richard Sharp; Alumni Officer in the Registrar and Secretary's Department, Janice E. Lancaster; Head of Cataloguing in the John Rylands University Library, Sandra J. Bracegirdle.

Grants: Recent grants include: British Heart Foundation: Molecular signals and vascular remodelling in hypertension, Dr N.J. Humphries; Dr V. Channan and Professor A.M. Heagerty, £97,783; Mast cells and atherosclerosis, Dr D.E. Woolley, £63,683.

EU: Molecular physics of excited state dynamics, Professor R. Crick and Professor F.H. Read, £86,250; Enterprise Oil: Support for Research Associate, Dr C.R. Hughes, £183,040.

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft: Development of nano-structured functional ceramic matrix composites, Dr C. Leach, £193,770.

Glaxo Group Research: The role of E1B-mediated disruption of the nuclear laminar and its significance for the suppression of apoptosis, Dr C. Dive, £48,000.

Ministry of Defence: Visible laser development and assessment, Professor T.A. King, £27,940.

MRC: Characterisation of a family of human heterochromatin-associated DNA repeat sequences, Dr J.E. Hewitt, £141,722.

Norsk Hydro: Burial diagenesis in the Gullfaks field, Dr S.D. Burley, £47,720.

NWRHA: The antecedents of suicide by young people, Dr L. Appleby, £32,613.

Thorn Charity Trust: Aetiology of abnormal calcium homeostasis in

diabetic mothers and their offspring, Dr R.J. Balmont, Dr H.O. Garsland, Dr C.P. Sibley and Professor R.D.H. Boyd, £83,868.

Can osteoblast cultures be used in place of bone graft in orthopaedic surgery? Dr C.E. Evans and Mr J.B. Williamson, £31,433.

Wellcome Trust: Material nutrition and placental amino acid transport activity in relation to foetal growth, Dr C.P. Sibley and Mr J.D. Glazier, £27,732.

Bath: Promotions: Dr Malcolm Sainsbury, currently Reader in Chemistry and Dr Ian Williams, currently Reader in Chemistry, have been promoted to Personal Chairs.

Stirling: A personal chair in Philosophy has been awarded to Dr Alan Millar, Head of Department of Philosophy from 1988 until 1994 and Senior Lecturer in Philosophy since 1994.

J.S. Grant Reid to a new Chair in Plant Biochemistry.

TRADE: 071 481 1982  
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313  
FAX: 071 782 7828

You must keep your head whatever happens, put up with hardship, work to spread the gospel, discharge all the duties of your calling. 2 Timothy 4: 1-5 (REB)

### BIRTHS

FADER - On 27th November 1994, at Kingston Hospital, to proud parents David and Claire, a beautiful son, Theo Alexander.

### DEATHS

ANDREWS - On December 21st 1994, at home, in his 92nd year, Norman Frederick Stewart. Sadly missed by his children and grandchildren. Funeral Service will take place at Eastbourne Crematorium on Friday January 6th at 11.30 am. Flowers to: Funeral Directors. Tel: (0435) 862548.

BROWNE - On December 23rd Colonel Ernest Colley Browne OBE, QMS, peacefully at home aged 90 years. Dearly loved husband of Margaret and the late Victoria. Beloved father of John and Gillian and loving step-father of Diane and Victoria. Funeral Thursday December 29th at 2pm at St Peter's, Farnham, near Bath. Donations to Cancer Research rather than flowers.

### DEATHS

DINWIDDY - Caroline Lesley (née Frank), suddenly on 22nd December 1994 aged 66 years. Wife of the late John and mother of Emma and Rachel.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

I have received your letter about my father, John, who died on 20th December 1994. I am sorry to hear of his passing.

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OBITUARIES

JOHN OSBORNE

John Osborne, playwright, actor and author, died on Christmas Eve in a Shrewsbury hospital aged 65. He was born on December 12, 1929.

MAY 8, 1956 was a crucial night in the fortunes of John Osborne and the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square. It also proved to be a landmark in the history of postwar British drama. Even so, the opening of *Look Back in Anger* was a fairly low-key affair. The male leads, Kenneth Haigh and Alan Bates, were just beginning to make a reputation; Mary Ure, the young Scottish actress who played Alison, was slightly better known; she had caused a minor stir in Anouilh's *Time Remembered*. Practically no one had heard of the author, John Osborne, who had spent most of his career until then appearing with minor repertory companies.

The notices in the daily papers were dismissive, although word got out that T. C. Worsley, wisest of theatre judges, admired it and had dissuaded his companion for the evening, Terence Rattigan, from leaving at half-time. When the Sundays came out it was a different story. Harold Hobson and Ken Tynan both hailed a new talent. The box office at the Court, where advance bookings had been miserable, began to do business and the company assembled by George Devine, who was to rule at Sloane Square until his death ten years later, had its first big success.

George Fearon, who looked like a walrus and barked like a walrus, an improbable PR man for the left-wing Court, invented the phrase "Angry Young Man" over a drink with Osborne. A new style of theatre was born and a new label was presented for the use of journalists over the next couple of decades. But no one would have believed that thirty years later *Look Back in Anger* would be a set book in schools. It simply secured the immediate future for its author and the Court.

Afterwards John Osborne was probably to write better plays than *Anger*. *Luther* was one and *A Patriot for Me*, which showed its strength on revival, was another. But this first success was to show Osborne's mastery of invective and the blistering monologue, via his chosen spokesman, Jimmy Porter. Osborne was to use this skill time and again, perhaps most notoriously in a letter known as "Damn You, England" published in *Tribune* in 1961 in which he castigated his native country for sins, real and imagined. It would have caused even more offence than it did had it been known that Osborne composed it between poolside drinks in a private house above the Côte d'Azur.

The letter was seditious, just as Jimmy Porter's outbursts were seditious. Osborne had built up a head of steam against many matters and attitudes British during an unhappy childhood and adolescence. His father died early of TB, as did his baby sister. Osborne chronicled his upbringing in some squalid detail and with much honesty in the first and most brilliant volume of his memoirs, *A Better Class of Person* (1991). His spleen was mainly reserved for his mother, referred to always as Nellie Beatrice, and the story of how she was blown off the lavatory by a wartime bomb is told with especial relish. Nellie Beatrice fared little better in volume two, *Almost a Gentleman* (1991), where some of her witless letters showing total incomprehension of her son's fame and acclaim are mockingly reprinted.

Having been educated at Belmont College in Devon, Osborne found his first days in the theatre were much akin to the experiences of Nicholas Nickleby with the



Vincent Crummies company. Doubling up as an assistant stage manager, he made his debut at the Lyceum, Sheffield, in *No Room at the Inn* (1948), a drama composed during enough at the time to command a few music-hall dates as well as ones in the straight theatre. He took the title role in a Hayling Island *Hamlet*. Life with indifferent repertory companies provided much of the raw material for the matrimonial scenes of *Look Back in Anger*, but not, as has been suggested, for *The Entertainer*, which was based on a much deeper love for the British music hall and in particular for the art of Max Miller.

While treading the boards in juvenile leads Osborne wrote his first plays, nearly always in collaboration. His partner on *The Devil Inside Him* was an early girlfriend, Stella Linden, and it was performed at the Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, in 1954. With Anthony Creighton, a homosexual actor who fitted in and out of Osborne's life, came *Personal Enemy* and *Epitaph for George Dillon*. The latter was performed at the Royal Court (directed by Bill Gaskill) and on Broadway after the successes of *Look Back in Anger* and *The Entertainer*.

The Royal Court was to be John Osborne's theatrical home for the decade which followed 1955. It housed the two great influences on his life: George Devine, who somehow kept the house alive despite rolling arguments with his board, and the director Tony Richardson. Together they persuaded Laurence Olivier to make one of his increasingly rare excursions into contemporary drama in *The Entertainer* (1957). Olivier spotted its

potential at once and even visited some of the dwindling number of London's music halls. Archie Rice became one of his most celebrated roles and happily it has been preserved on film, although the movie version of 1960 (also directed by Richardson) cannot compare with the impact the play made on stage. The film was, however, infinitely superior to the BBC TV production — with all the music changed — transmitted with Michael Gambon in the eponymous role in 1993.

Behind the surface sleaze of *The Entertainer* some of the more astute critics saw the influence of Brecht, one of the Royal Court's household gods, creeping into Osborne's work. He was certainly to have an effect on *Luther*. But before that Osborne wrote a musical, *The World of Paul Slickey*, which was in part a revenge on the gossip columnists who had been pursuing him. Osborne was news: he and the Court were in regular trouble with the Lord Chamberlain's office over dialogue considered "offensive" and his own private life could usually be relied on to provide a paragraph or two. He had divorced his first wife, Pamela Lane, and relations with his second, Mary Ure (Alison of *Look Back in Anger*), were known to be stormy. But, for once in his life, John Osborne was not sharp enough. With Dennis Lotis far too nice in the title role of the repertory reporter, Paul Slickey, which opened to a fanfare of publicity at the Palace Theatre on May 5, 1959, was a flop.

On *Luther* (1961) there could be no such accusations of shallowness. It established Albert Finney, first at the Court and then on Broadway, as a stage actor of the first

magnitude. Osborne proved that he could create marvellous roles for the best actors of the day and give them speeches to show their prowess in the way that Verdi and Rossini made tenors go out and prove themselves. *Inadmissible Evidence* (1964), in a lower and less Brechtian key, was another exercise in monologue only interrupted occasionally, with Nicol Williamson as an outwardly respectable solicitor this time entering the confessional on matters of conscience.

The largest scale of Osborne's plays for the Court was *A Patriot for Me* (1965). The subject, homosexuality and blackmail in the Imperial Austrian army, involved another thoroughly enjoyable tussle with the Lord Chamberlain. The drag ball scene, which included a virtuoso performance from Devine himself, achieved considerable notoriety — the idea had been born in a conversation with Christopher Isherwood and his companion, Don Bachardy.

By this time John Osborne was already hoitously involved in the British cinema. He won an Oscar for his screenplay of *Tom Jones* (1963), which had done as much to establish Albert Finney as a film star as *Luther* had done for his stage reputation. With Tony Richardson he formed Woodfall Films, named after the Chelsea street where Osborne lived for some time, which brought to the screen his own plays and those of contemporaries such as Shelagh Delaney.

His other involvement was with the film critic Penelope Giliatt, wife of the neurologist Roger Giliatt, who had been best man at Tony Armstrong-Jones's marriage to Princess Margaret. Fictitious

film festivals, including an improbable one at Folkestone, were invented to provide alibis for weekends away. The marriage with Mary Ure was dissolved in 1963 and the same year Osborne married Mrs Giliatt. Five years later this marriage, too, was dissolved and the fourth Osborne wife was the actress Jill Bennett, who inspired the fiercest of his many misogynistic outbursts.

In 1966 Osborne deserted his nest at the Royal Court to rework a Lope de Vega drama for the National under the title of *A Bond Honoured*. The attraction was a protagonist who justified his evil doings in the name of freedom, but it proved a drab evening. He was happier in two later pieces for the Court, both dealing with contemporary themes and attitudes. *The Hotel in Amsterdam* (1968) had sharp, up-to-the-minute dialogue and elicited a marvellous performance from Paul Scofield. *West of Suez* (1971) returned to Osborne's nostalgia for past times and standards and allowed him to wallow in the mire of current decline. The mouthpiece this time was Ralph Richardson.

Osborne's chosen spokesmen were always male. He pursued women and they pursued him — nothing is more harrowing, he once wrote, than the cold sexual appraisal of a woman's eyes. But in virtually all his major plays they had only supporting roles. Osborne was at his best writing for gladiators, especially rather moth-eaten ones.

After he divorced Jill Bennett in 1977 amid much acrimony — he normally referred to her as Adolf, not least for her autocratic ways — a new Osborne began to emerge. Or perhaps it was a case of

Cincinnatus retiring to his farm. Sloane Square's favourite, scourge made his home on the Kent-Surrey border with his fifth wife Helen Dawson, a former arts journalist and one-time dramatic critic on *The Observer*.

A slight figure with a quiet authority all of her own, she fairly quickly had a notably calming effect on Osborne and he took on some of the manners and dress of a country squire especially after they went off to live near Cuten in Shropshire in 1986. He grew a trim beard, wore country clothes (though almost invariably with a cravat — he was never anything but elegant) and chatted in the local pub. Osborne enjoyed playing his new role quite as much as any of the parts he had appeared in on stage. Interviewers who tramped up the hill to his 1812 mansion were properly surprised by the almost benign countenance that greeted them. One was told roundly that the marriage to Helen was so successful because "she is not ambitious" (in fact, she is a very good writer who effectively "ghosted" some of her husband's later journalistic pieces).

The new, more placid Osborne was far less prolific and, apart from occasional forays (like his protest in a letter to *The Times* against the disappearance of Turkish cigarettes), began to disappear from the public eye. The television plays he wrote in the early 1980s were not of great consequence and his treatment of Handel (directed by Tony Palmer) for Channel 4's *God Rot Turnbridge Wells!* (1985) was far less sensational than its title suggested.

But fusillades were still fired off from time to time — notably in *The Spectator*, where the old dramatist soon proved himself a master diarist. On television *A Full Life* (also for Channel 4) allowed Osborne to take aim at his favourite targets — wives, theatre critics and abroad among them. In 1985 the National Theatre planned a revival of *The Entertainer* with Alan Bates in the Olivier part, but Osborne scuppered the project by refusing categorically to have Joan Plowright as the female lead. He claimed that there was no animosity between them, but some thought differently.

The highest-octane Osborne derision was, though, mainly reserved for his well spaced memoirs: there was a ten-year gap between the publication of the first volume and the second one, *Almost a Gentleman* (1991). Both showed that the old hand had not lost its cunning when it came to throwing vitriol. At the receiving end Nellie Beatrice remained in the lead, with Jill Bennett, Mary Ure and Penelope Giliatt following closely. The Lord Chamberlain was merely a runner-up.

During a television interview coinciding with the publication of the second volume of his autobiography Osborne, looking almost chastened, admitted that much of his life in the 1970s and early 1980s was "a big, black hole". But the verbal wit survived, leading to scorching attacks on the new Osborne enemies: liberals, trendy clergy, dogooders, "counsellors" (all of whom were ridiculed in his last play *Déjà vu*, a rather sad sequel to *Look Back in Anger*, which ran only for a matter of weeks at the Comedy Theatre in the summer of 1992).

As victims of his rage, such figures had by the end, rather too predictably, replaced mere theatre critics and ex-wives. But Osborne's was an exceptional talent — even when accompanied by sulphur — and it was a tragedy that it should have illuminated the British stage as briefly as it did.

Three of his four ex-wives predeceased him and he is survived by his fifth wife, Helen, and a daughter from his third marriage to Penelope Giliatt.

BASIL HERBERTSON

Basil Herbertson, pathologist, died in Cambridge on December 11 aged 73. He was born on September 12, 1921.

BASIL HERBERTSON was a teacher in the pathology department of Cambridge University for nearly forty years. As a researcher he was responsible for some interesting breakthroughs. His work on the pathology of organ transplantation helped Roy Calne in his pioneering liver transplant work at Addenbrooke's Hospital. He also worked on the inherited diseases of experimental animals and on factors controlling cell division.

Basil Marriott Herbertson was educated at Bootham School, York, and the Newcastle division of Durham University, where he read medicine. Qualifying as a doctor in 1943, he was given house appointments in medicine and surgery at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle. But, having been rejected on medical grounds by the armed forces, he then found he was able to join the Merchant Navy, serving as a ship's doctor.



After the war he settled in Cambridge where he began his long career as a pathologist. His first appointment was as a junior assistant pathologist in

the university department of pathology and at Addenbrooke's Hospital. In 1948 he was appointed a university demonstrator and in 1953 a university lecturer. He investigated the relationship between hypersensitivity and disease, and this led to the award of an MD, from Durham University, in 1955.

Herbertson took to academic life with aplomb and combined his duties as a teacher with service pathology to Addenbrooke's. By 1968 he had been made a lecturer consultant in the NHS to Addenbrooke's and in 1974 a reader in histopathology in the university department — a rare distinction.

At the same time he juggled commitments to the University of Cambridge, and to Fitzwilliam House, as it was then known. He became the director of medical studies to Fitzwilliam House in 1951, an assistant tutor in 1956 (an office he carried on when it was renamed Fitzwilliam College in 1966) and was successively Fellow of Fitzwilliam from 1963 and president of the college from 1968 to 1972. In 1975 he gave up his college

commitments and his NHS consultancy to concentrate on teaching and research. But he soon found himself being pulled in other directions. The veterinary school in Cambridge was facing various problems, and Herbertson was appointed chairman of the Clinical Veterinary Medicine Syndicate, where he used his considerable energies to pull the school back into shape.

A fair-minded, charitable administrator, Herbertson was chairman of the Faculty Board of Biology '79-81, and thereafter joined the general board of the university, serving as chairman of the needs committee, and was on the council of the Senate. He retired as a reader in pathology in 1984. For the next five years he was president of Hughes Hall, a postgraduate college in Cambridge. He was also chairman of the Botanic Gardens Syndicate and chairman of the board of governors of the Institute of Education, 1988-92, overseeing its incorporation into the university.

He is survived by his wife Margaret, two daughters and a son.

STUART ROOSA

Stuart Roosa, American astronaut, died on December 12 aged 61. He was born on August 16, 1933.

AS THE pilot of the command module on the Apollo 14 mission in February 1971, Stuart Roosa had the relatively unglamorous task of remaining in orbit around the Moon while his two companions, Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell, descended to explore a region of the lunar landscape known as Fra Mauro. Alone, out of radio contact and in total darkness for long periods, Roosa could only wait and hope that the landing module would reject him successfully, which it did.

Roosa said later that he actually enjoyed the solitude, and saw nothing extraordinary in his accomplishment. "Space changes nobody. You bring back from space what



you bring into space." The Apollo 14 mission, the third to land on the Moon's surface, was destined to be Roosa's only space flight. He served as a backup command pilot for the final two lunar missions, Apollo 16 and 17. Roosa was a straight-laced

conservative family man. He began his career parachuting into remote areas of Colorado to fight forest fires while studying for his bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering at the University of Colorado.

After graduation, Roosa joined the US Air Force, rising to the rank of colonel and becoming an experimental test pilot at Edwards Air Force Base in California, the training ground for many future astronauts. He was one of 19 people selected for the astronaut class of 1966 when the corps was being expanded for the Apollo project.

Roosa worked on the early stages of the space shuttle programme until his retirement from the air force in 1976. At the time of his death he owned a beer distributorship in Gulfport, Mississippi. He leaves his widow, three sons and a daughter.

Church appointments

The Rev Christopher Moody, Vicar, St Anne and All Saints, South Lambeth (Southwark); to be Priest-in-charge, Market Harborough St Dionysius and Market Harborough The Transfiguration (Leicester).  
The Rev Colin Spivey, Rector, Haworth (Bradford), and a substitute Prison Chaplain at Armley Prison; to be Vicar, St John the Divine, Thorpe Edge, Bradford (Bradford).  
The Rev Brian Stamford, CMS Diocese of North Kigezi, Uganda; to be Honorary Priest-in-Charge of North Hill and Lewannick (Truro).  
The Rev Canon George Warner, Team Rector, Caludon Team Ministry, based at Stoke St Michael's, Coventry; to be Priest-in-charge, All Saints, and Holy Trinity, Leamington Spa, and St James' Old Milverton

(Coventry).  
The Rev James Whitlock, Team Rector, Probus, Ladock, Grampound w. Creed and St Eernie; to be Vicar, Penzance, St Mary w. St Paul (Truro).  
The Rev David Craig, Chaplain to Missions to Seamen, Halifax, Nova Scotia; now Chaplain to Missions to Seamen, Immingham (Lincoln).  
The Rev Dr Nicholas Cranfield, Fellow, Chaplain and Precentor of Selwyn College, Cambridge (Ely); now also Dean of Chapel of Selwyn College, Cambridge (Ely).  
The Rev Stuart Darlison, Assistant Curate, Horncliffe; to be Priest-in-charge, Welton, Dunholme and Southern (Lincoln).  
The Rev Alan Gadd, Hon Curate, All Saints, Battersea Park; to be Priest-in-charge, All Saints, Battersea Park

(Southwark).  
The Rev Peter Godden, Team Vicar, St Hugh's, North Hykeham; to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter at Gow's, Lincoln (Lincoln).  
The Rev Gary Jenkins, Priest-in-charge, St Peter, St Helier (Southwark); to be Vicar, St Peter, St Helier, same diocese.  
The Rev Michael Long, Vicar, Cayton w. Eastfield; to be also Rural Dean of Scarborough (York).  
**Retirements and resignations**  
The Rev Kevin Robinson, Team Vicar, St Barnabas, Downham, Catford (Southwark); to resign as from February 28, 1995.  
The Rev Herman Annis, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Northampton (Peterborough); to retire as from February 28, 1995.

The Rev John Gutteridge, Vicar, Walthamstow, St Gabriel (Chelmsford); to retire as from April 30, 1995.  
The Rev Elisabeth Mordecai, Curate, Worcester City Parish (Worcester); retired as from November 30.  
The Rev John Morgan, Priest-in-charge, Stanton St Quintin, Hullavington, Grittleton; Leigh Delamere, Norton and Littleton Drew (Bristol); to resign from the parishes of Grittleton and Leigh Delamere and Littleton Drew as from January 1, 1995. He will remain Priest-in-charge, Stanton St Quintin, Hullavington and Norton.  
The Rev Victor Payne, Honorary Curate, All Saints, Sandstead (Southwark); to retire as from January 16, 1995.

COVENT-GARDEN THEATRE

The new Christmas pantomime, which is denominated by "Hop-o'-my Thumb and his brothers, or Harlequin and the Ogre," followed. The ordinary adjuncts of Christmas, the substantial cheer over which old friends rejoice, and in the discussion of which new friendships are formed, have lost none of their ancient celebrity. But one of the minimizing devices of the season, the Genius of Pantomime, appears to have flown — *Stas nominis umbra*. That which is now called "pantomime" consists in a series of disjointed scenes, destitute of general aim or object, and equally destitute of isolated point or sameness. The entertainment of last night was precisely of this description. It is founded on the well-known nursery tale of Hop-o'-my Thumb and his Six Brothers, and in the opening or serious part of the pantomime (which is by far the most amusing part of it) the original is pretty strictly adhered to. Hop-o'-my Thumb (who was represented with much cleverness by Miss Poole) possesses wisdom far beyond his years. He defeats the machinations of Madoc Mawr, an ogre, into whose power he and his brethren have fallen, and he also rescues them from the fangs of the monster.

ON THIS DAY

December 27 1831

The pantomime was as popular in the 19th century as it is today, although Hop-o'-my Thumb, playing also a few yards away at Drury Lane Theatre, seems to have fallen out of favour.

Llewellyn Bala, a Welsh Prince, and his betrothed spouse, the Prince of Snowdon. The genius of the harp, however, determines that the Prince shall not carry off his mistress without first encountering some dangers for her sake, and transforms the Prince to Harlequin, the lady to Columbine, the Ogre's porter to Clown, and his cook to Pantaloon, with a supernumerary attendant, or secondary clown, *yeipect Lacquey*. The transformation effected, the lovers dance, not very gracefully, and their pursuers jostle each other about, not very amusingly, until in

mercy to them and to the audience, the Genius of the Harp again appears: "And makes the lovers happy."

We have rarely sat out two such uncomfortable hours as this pantomime occupied. The tricks are scanty in the extreme, and their paucity is not compensated by their drollery. That which excited the greatest amusement, and which had the most pointed application, was the transformation of a parcel, labelled "Vendor of the dead languages," into a shop well-stocked with tongues, bearing the inscription, "Dealer in the unknown tongues." This, together with a trio between one of those vocal organs, the Clown and the Pantaloon, created much laughter. The greater part of the scenery is common place. We would except from this general observation "Thumb Palace", which is designed in a light and tasteful style; and the Ogre's Castle by sunrise — both the production of Grieve. The Cosmorama, representing a series of scenes on the Thames, from Waterloo-bridge to the New London-bridge, with the Royal procession as it appeared on the 1st of August, is, with the exception of the last scene, which possesses considerable brilliancy, a dull picture. The subject is hackneyed, and it has not been here created so as to impart a scintilla of novelty to it.



## NEWS

## Police storm hijacked plane

French anti-terrorist police stormed the hijacked Air France Airbus at Marseilles airport, killing the four terrorists who seized the jet in Algiers on Christmas Eve and rescuing all 170 people aboard alive.

The four terrorists of the Algerian Islamic Armed Group died in a textbook assault as night fell on the airport. 14 hours after the aircraft had landed from Algiers. Page 1

## Algerian war comes to France

The new Algerian war burst on to French soil, forcing the government to reflect on the policy that has turned Paris into the "Great Satan" of a formidable Islamic force. "Everyone knew this was bound to happen," said Jean-Francois Deniau, a former foreign minister, deploring the way France has assumed the villain's role. Page 9

## Graduate tax

The Labour Party is considering proposals for a graduate tax to help to pay for the escalating costs of higher education. Graduates would have to pay between £6,000 and £8,000 during their working lives. Page 1

## Osborne dies

The playwright John Osborne, author of *Look Back in Anger* and the original *Angry Young Man*, died of heart failure. Pages 1, 2

## Mercury anger

A Labour MP has called for compensation for thousands of Mercury One-2-One customers who failed to get through on Christmas Day under the network's free calls promotion. Page 1

## Perfect skiing

Skiers took to the slopes in Scotland to celebrate Boxing Day after overnight snowfalls brought perfect conditions. Page 2

## Shopping spree

Electrical, furniture and DIY stores cut short the holidays and opened their doors again yesterday, undercutting their pre-Christmas bargains. Page 3

## Police search

Tough powers to restrict the movement of violent offenders released from jail were demanded by Labour as police searched for an "dangerous" man wanted in connection with the murder of his former wife. Page 3

## China opens sperm bank — for yaks

China is opening a yak sperm bank in Tibet. At a cost of more than £128,000 and after six years of debate, the bank is due to open next year and will be able to inseminate artificially up to 100,000 animals. Of the 14 million yaks in the world, almost 13 million are in Tibet, where they are used for transport and for their meat, milk, and fur. Page 5

## Price of learning

Oxford University has put a £1 million price tag on its professorships as it tries to maintain the momentum of its fund raising campaign. Page 4

## Christmas memories

Harold Payne had lost seven stone after suffering three years of regular beatings at the hands of his Japanese captors. *The Times* pays its last visit to Christmas 1941. Page 5

## Chechnya talks

With troops bogged down in Chechnya and making no visible progress, Russia's National Security Council headed by President Yeltsin announced a new attempt to open talks. Page 7

## PC celebrations

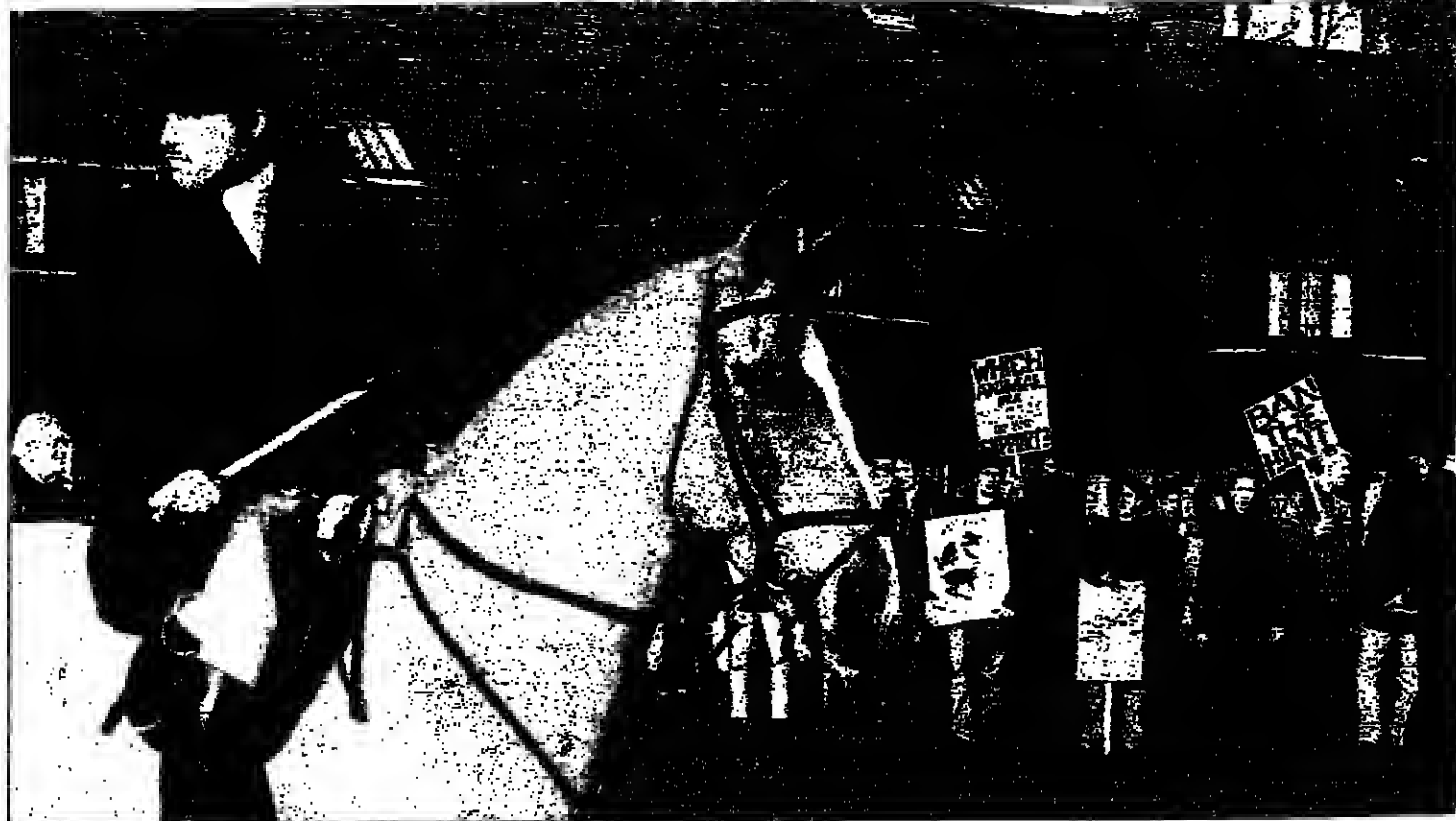
The season of celebration is far from over in politically correct America. Just as Hanukkah was followed by Christmas, so Christmas gave way to the seven-day festival of Kwanzaa. Page 7

## Burma welcomes Li

Li Peng, the Chinese Premier, arrived to an enthusiastic welcome in Rangoon on a three-day visit. Page 8

## Pilot still held

To the Clinton Administration's dismay, North Korea let Christmas come and go without releasing the American military pilot whose helicopter was shot down on December 17. Page 8



Anti-hunting demonstrators seeing off the Boxing Day meet at Midhurst, Sussex. They threw little more than verbal abuse. Page 3

## BUSINESS

**Bright forecast:** The City expects the British economy to enjoy another solid year of progress in 1995, with output rising by a further 3.2 per cent and inflation staying just below 3 per cent. But it thinks that consumer spending will remain weak. Page 32

**Written off:** Japan's big city banks saw their profits cut on average by 40 per cent in the six months to September as they finally wrote off more of the bad debts accumulated from a long-dreaded speculative boom. Page 32

**Avoiding the sack:** Fears of mass new redundancies in City securities houses seem to have been exaggerated. Despite dull markets, the sackings are more likely to be a trickle than a flood. Page 32

## SPORT

**Football:** Mark Hughes, seemingly poised to leave Manchester United, gave a timely reminder of his prowess with a goal that set up a thrilling win for his team. Page 18

**Crickets:** The second Test begins to follow an ominously familiar course in Melbourne as England fail to make the most of their chances against Australia. Page 17

**Rugby league:** Va'aiga Tuigamala snatched victory for Wigan in spectacular fashion, charging through three tackles to secure a try that strengthened his team's title hopes. Page 24

**Racing:** Barton Bank, the favourite in the King George VI Chase at Kempton, foundered at the final fence to let in the French hope, Algan. Page 23

## ARTS

**The day I met:** When Alfred Hitchcock summoned John Russell Taylor to dine with him, the *Times* film critic feared the worst. He got a world exclusive. Page 26

**Children's theatre:** *Grimm Tales* at the Young Vic; *Angelo* at the Little Angel; and *Mr Rabbit meets Brer Santa* on a barge in Little Venice. Page 26

**Loosing their touch:** After 25 years in the business of making music, the longest-lasting trio in rock are finally running out of steam. David Sinclair sees ZZ Top. Page 26

**Dance at Christmas:** If it's Christmas it must be *The Nutcracker*. This year Londoners get two major productions of the perennial favourite, along with *Cinderella* at Covent Garden. Page 27

## FEATURES

**Glad to be sad:** How can melancholy music make us both sad and happy? Professor Anthony Clare explains. Page 10

**Award-winner:** "If you've got a big nose like me, you just literally jam it in so that there's nowhere the whisky can go but up your nose." Richard Paterson, master blender of Scotch whiskies, talks to Joanna Pitman. Page 11

**Bright sparks:** The former students of a number of highly academic girls' schools have forged a powerful network. Page 11

## LAW

**Inn tense:** "1994 has generally been a year of stress in the courts — for lawyers, judges and litigants alike," David Pannick QC, reviews the legal year. Page 28

## TOMORROW

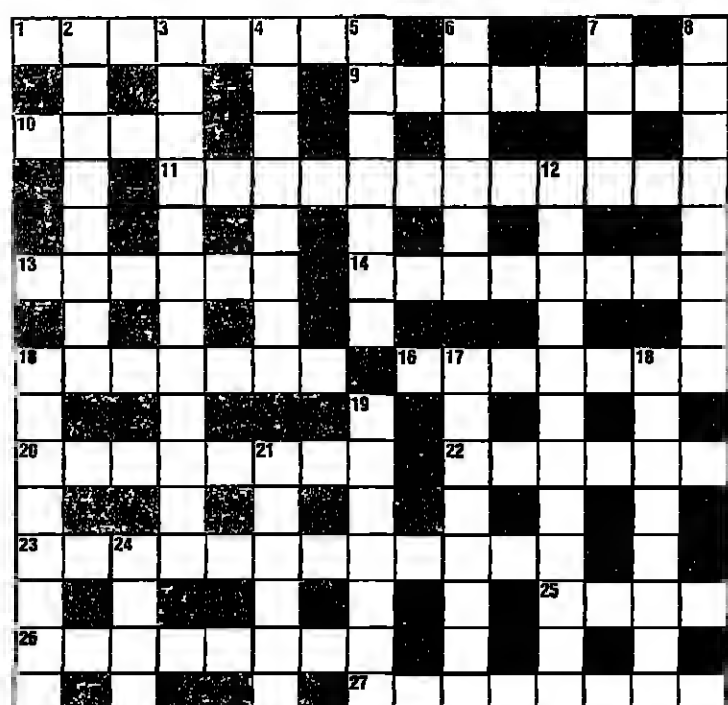
## IN THE TIMES

**SALE FEVER**  
Iain R. Webb's guide to filling your wardrobe with cut-price classics of fashion

**LAST FAREWELL**  
The day I met Leonard Bernstein: Richard Morrison on the great conductor



## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,736



- ACROSS**
- Sensation gets a woman's books rejected — up to now (8)
  - Revised tenure of a certain number (8)
  - To express pleasure is simpler out east (4)
  - Confused type on James Hogg's course? (9,3)
  - One is so prickly, being on the rocks! (6)
  - Propose to write comment about tropical starling (8)
  - Quarters in gloomy environment, available for viewing (7)
  - Former pupil likes new monument (7)
  - Sue is slow to capture a single game (8)
  - A society opening about that time in the city (6)
  - Strange car going to European extremists' assembly (12)
  - Move quickly to tuck in garment (4)
- DOWN**
- New request to have animal beheaded outside state (8)
  - Heartless ass captivated by girl's plainness (5)
  - Flood engulfing sister in a single day (8)
  - Arabs may be involved in such shrewd bargaining (5-7)
  - Backtracking revealed by woman priest without hesitation (8)
  - Cavalier temporarily unattracted by writing (7)
  - The minimum a body needs to function properly (6)
  - Go round end of house and have a look (4)
  - Predictable joint reaction? (4-4)
  - Without assistance, like convicted thieves of old (6-6)
  - Synthetic material for, say, absurd road marker (8)
  - Blissful to excel, even though in charge (8)
  - Taking an ancient language is an awful risk in a way (8)
  - Container vessel in port, on the south side (7)
  - Opposed to Bible language (6)
  - Mock title abandoned by his writers (4)

## Solution to Puzzle No 19,735

COMPONENT FORMS  
O P V E O E I  
N A I V E T E S C R U P L E  
T R A N S I M R V  
I R E N E S T E V E D O R E  
N T O R R E  
E X A C T I N G H A I R  
N D A G D C T E  
T O O T M I N A R E T S  
R E S S R O  
O R A N G E T I P E L G I N  
S T I M U L A T I O N  
C H I M E R A S T E P S O N  
A O S T I E S T I C  
R E N T S T U R N I S T I O N I C

The Times Crossword Championship 1995, revised provisional dates: Qualifiers: Jan 16; Eliminator: Feb 23; Finals: York, Mar 19; Glasgow April 9; Bristol, May 28; Birmingham, June 18; London A, July 22; B, July 23; National Final, Oct 1.

Times Two Crossword, page 32

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Greater London         | 701 |
| East of London         | 702 |
| South East             | 703 |
| South West             | 704 |
| West Midlands          | 705 |
| East Midlands          | 706 |
| North East             | 707 |
| North West             | 708 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | 709 |
| East of England        | 710 |
| West of England        | 711 |
| South Wales            | 712 |
| North Wales            | 713 |
| Central Wales          | 714 |
| South Wales            | 715 |
| West Wales             | 716 |
| North Wales            | 717 |
| Central Wales          | 718 |
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| South Wales            | 739 |
| West Wales             | 740 |
| North Wales            | 741 |
| Central Wales          | 742 |
| South Wales            | 743 |
| West Wales             | 744 |
| North Wales            | 745 |

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| London & SE traffic, roadworks   | 731 |
| Area within M25  | 732 |
| Essex/Herford/Bucks/Berkshire/Chesh  | 733 |
| Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants   | 734 |
| M25 London Orbital only  | 735 |
| National traffic and roadworks   | 736 |
| National motorways   | 737 |
| West Country   | 738 |
| Wales  | 739 |
| East of England  | 740 |
| North-west England   | 741 |
| North-east England   | 742 |
| Scotland   | 743 |
| North Ireland  | 744 |
| AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times | 745 |

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Colwyn Bay, Chyd, and Emsay, Devon. 12C (54F); lowest day max: Stranraer, Western Isles. 4C (41F); highest rainfall: Stranraer, 0.43in. Highest sunshine: Anglesey, Gwynedd, 0 hrs.

## FORECAST

**General:** wintry showers in north-east Scotland, but bright and dry elsewhere before cloud and rain spread from southwest. Snow on hills. Northern Ireland will start bright, with rain spreading from southwest. Southern England and South Wales will be wet for a time. Elsewhere, it will be bright and dry in the morning before cloud and rain spread to all parts in the afternoon.

**London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England:** rain, becoming patchy, then persistent rain spreading from southwest. Wind strong locally gale, southwesterly. Max 10C (50F).

**E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N England:** wet at first, then bright, further rain later. Strong southwest wind, decreasing. Max 10C (50F).

**S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** clear intervals, rain spreading from south-east, heavy at times. Winds light and variable, southerly. Max 9C (48F).

**NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands:** clear with sunny intervals; cloud and rain, preceded by snow on hills, spreading from west. Wind light and variable, becoming light southerly. Max 8C (46F).

**SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** clear intervals, then rain, heavy at times. Winds light and variable, becoming moderate southerly. Max 8C (46F).

**Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** showers, some heavy, then sunny intervals. Wind moderate northerly, becoming light and variable. Max 5C (41F).

**Outlook:** tomorrow will be cloudy with rain or drizzle, Thursday bright with showers, squally in the west, and prolonged in northern Scotland.

## AROUND BRITAIN

| 24 hrs to 5 pm  | b: bright | c: cloud | d: drizzle | ds: dust storm | du: dull | f: fair | lg: fog | g: gale | h: hail | r: rain | sh: shower | s: snow | ss: sun | st: storm |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|------------|----------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Aberdeen        | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Anglesey        | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Armagh          | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Belfast         | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Birmingham      | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Bognor          | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Bournemouth     | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Bristol         | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Buxton          | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Cardiff         | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Carlisle        | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Colwyn Bay      | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Cornwall        | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Dorchester      | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Durham          | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Edinburgh       | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Exeter          | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Falmouth        | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Farnham         | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Folkestone      | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Glasgow         | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Guernsey        | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Hastings        | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Hawthorn        | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Hemel Hempstead | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Hove            | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Hull            | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Huntingdon      | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Ilfracombe      | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Isle of Man     | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Jersey          | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Knoss           | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Leeds           | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| London          | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Leuchars        | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |
| Luton           | 0.0       | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0        | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0       |

## ABROAD

|         |       |            |       |           |       |            |       |
|---------|-------|------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|
| Algeria | 9.48  | Cyprus     | 0.32  | Madrid    | 1.34  | Riyadh     | 18.81 |
| Algeria | 17.63 | Corfu      | 12.54 | Malaga    | 13.55 | Rome       | 11.52 |
| Algeria | 21.70 | Dublin     | 6.43  | Mallorca  | 15.59 | Saltzburg  | 9.48  |
| Algeria | 15.59 | Dubrovnik  | 12.54 | Malta     | 15.59 | SF Franco  | 9.48  |
| Algeria | 2.36  | Faro       | 13.55 | Melilla   | 23.73 | Santaferrn | 9.48  |
| Algeria | 17.63 | Feriz      | 17.63 | Medina    | 17.63 | Santiago   | 9.48  |
| Algeria | 17.63 | Frankfurt  | 10.32 | Miami     | 19.61 | Seoul      | 7.45  |
| Algeria | 31.86 | Funchal    | 18.81 | Minsk     | 3.37  | Shimizu    | 3.37  |
| Algeria | 31.86 | Garmisch   | 18.81 | Montreal  | 17.63 | Stuttgart  | 2.36  |
| Algeria | 31.86 | Gibraltar  | 13.55 | Moscow    | 12.54 | Taipei     | 9.48  |
| Algeria | 18.81 | Helsinki   | 12.54 | Munich    | 11.30 | Tanger     | 12.54 |
| Algeria | 0.32  | Hong K     | 6.43  | Nairobi   | 25.77 | Tai Aw     | 21.70 |
| Algeria | 18.81 | Hong K     | 6.43  | Naples    | 12.54 | Tokyo      | 6.43  |
| Algeria | 21.70 | Istanbul   | 12.54 | N York    | 24.75 | Tokyo      | 6.43  |
| Algeria | 31.86 | Jericho    | 31.86 | N Delhi   | 12.54 | Toronto    | 21.70 |
| Algeria | 18.81 | Jakarta    | 10.32 | N Delhi   | 10.32 | Toronto    | 21.70 |
| Algeria | 18.81 | Karachi    | 22.72 | Oslo      | 4.39  | Valencia   | 5.41  |
| Algeria | 0.32  | L. Palmas  | 22.72 | Paris     | 2.36  | Vancouver  | 5.41  |
| Algeria | 31.86 | L. Palmas  | 22.72 | Peking    | 12.54 | Vancouver  | 5.41  |
| Algeria | 20.99 | Lisbon     | 6.43  | Peking    | 26.79 | Vienna     | 0.32  |
| Algeria | 20.99 | Locarno    | 6.43  | Prague    | 2.36  | Warsaw     | 5.41  |
| Algeria | 20.99 | L. Angeles | 12.54 | Reykjavik | 12.54 | Warsaw     | 5.41  |
| Algeria | 18.81 | Luxemb     | 2.36  | Rhodes    | 15.59 | Wellington | 9.48  |
| Algeria | 0.32  | London     | 24.75 | Rio de J  | 9.48  | Zurich     | 0.32  |





SPORT 17-25

Barton Bank throws away King George VI



ARTS 26, 27

The day Hitchcock sent a limo for a Times man



LAW 28

Lovely for lawyers: the year of litigation

FAIR WIND FOR RECOVERY Business 30,32

# THE TIMES

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27, 1994

Stewart suffers broken finger as Australia's bowlers fight back in second Test

## Warne wrests control away from England

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

THEY will have shaken their heads at the injustice of it all last night, bemoaning the fateful fingers that umpires raise and batsmen break. And they will have had a point. The overriding fact remains, however, that it was because England's cricketers did not make the best of their opportunities that the second Test match had begun to follow an ominously familiar course.

England played, yesterday, like a team desperate to win rather than a team that believes it likely. Their bowlers were frantic yet unfocused and their batsmen paid too much heed to the exhortations of Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, that wickets must be sold dearly.

Consequently, Shane Warne was allowed to reinforce his mental hold, now so firm that even his stray deliveries are minutely examined for signs of pedigree, and the three questionable umpiring decisions that raised English hackles could not critically pardon the disappointing failure to capitalise on a position of great promise.

None the less, the second day of this Christmas Test was as enthralling as the first, the stakes high, the cricket stern and grudging. A turn-off, no doubt, for those of the 51,620 crowd raised on the instant version. The nuances of this game have been subtler, the pace far slower, but it is already a gripping Test.

England took the first day, Australia the second. Last night, with England 131 behind, four men out and another, Alec Stewart, technically unfit to continue batting, Keith Fletcher, the team manager, bravely beamed that it was "an even game". But Steve Waugh, whose unbeaten 94 may prove to have been decisive, voiced a different view.

"This wicket isn't real good for batting," he said. "You are never really in, because the pace and bounce is inconsistent. Today was the best for batting and it will get worse from here on in. Anything more than 200 will be hard to chase in the fourth innings."

To have a serious chance of the victory that would square this series, England required a first-innings lead of at least 50. The prospects of that receded sharply as they lost three important wickets in the last 70 minutes. But the erosion of their command had begun much earlier, first when they bowed without skill or sense at the tailenders and then

when Stewart's unfortunate winter took another sour turn. Waugh had only the tail for support when play resumed under clear blue skies and although Devon Malcolm continually dragged the ball down the leg side with a 7-2 off-side field in place, the admirable Darren Gough demonstrated precisely how to bowl at the semi-skilled — straight and full.

Tim May, stepping across his stumps, was unarguably leg-before and, three balls later, Craig McDermott was classically yorked. At 242 for nine England were content but Damien Fleming, the No. 11, now showed an unexpected ability to handle a bat while Malcolm showed his

### Vice-captain ready to bat

ALEC STEWART, the England vice-captain, whose right index finger was broken for the second time on tour yesterday, is prepared to bat again in the second Test if required (Alan Lee writes). Stewart was hit on the hand by a ball from Craig McDermott during the first innings and an X-ray confirmed the fracture, which will keep him out of action for three weeks.

"If it's for the good of the team I'll go out there," Stewart said. "The problem would be if I got hit on the finger again." Stewart being their second wicketkeeper, England are almost certain to send for another replacement. Jack Russell is official standby. Fraser and Ilett have already joined the tour.

ingrained ability to put the ball where tailend batsmen will be least inconvenienced.

He did his job eventually. Fleming nudging a third slip catch of the innings to Graeme Hick, but by then the last wicket had added 37. Waugh was left on 94, which was less than he deserved. Four times already, in Test cricket, he had been out in the nineties. Here, his chanceless innings spanned 265 minutes and included a blow on the grille of his helmet from Malcolm.

England, with Stewart retained as Michael Atherton's partner, negotiated six overs before lunch but the first ball thereafter cut deep into their confidence. McDermott, probing the vagaries of this pitch as

only Gough had done for England, rattled Stewart on the right glove — indeed, the same right index finger that was broken, by Craig White, in the first week of the tour.

Retiring reluctantly, Stewart was X-rayed in hospital, where an uncannily similar break was confirmed. The vital nature of this game means that he could be patched up to bat again but he will not play another match for three weeks and England's selectors were last night discussing who should be the third emergency replacement on this ill-starred tour and whether he should be primarily a batsman or wicketkeeper.

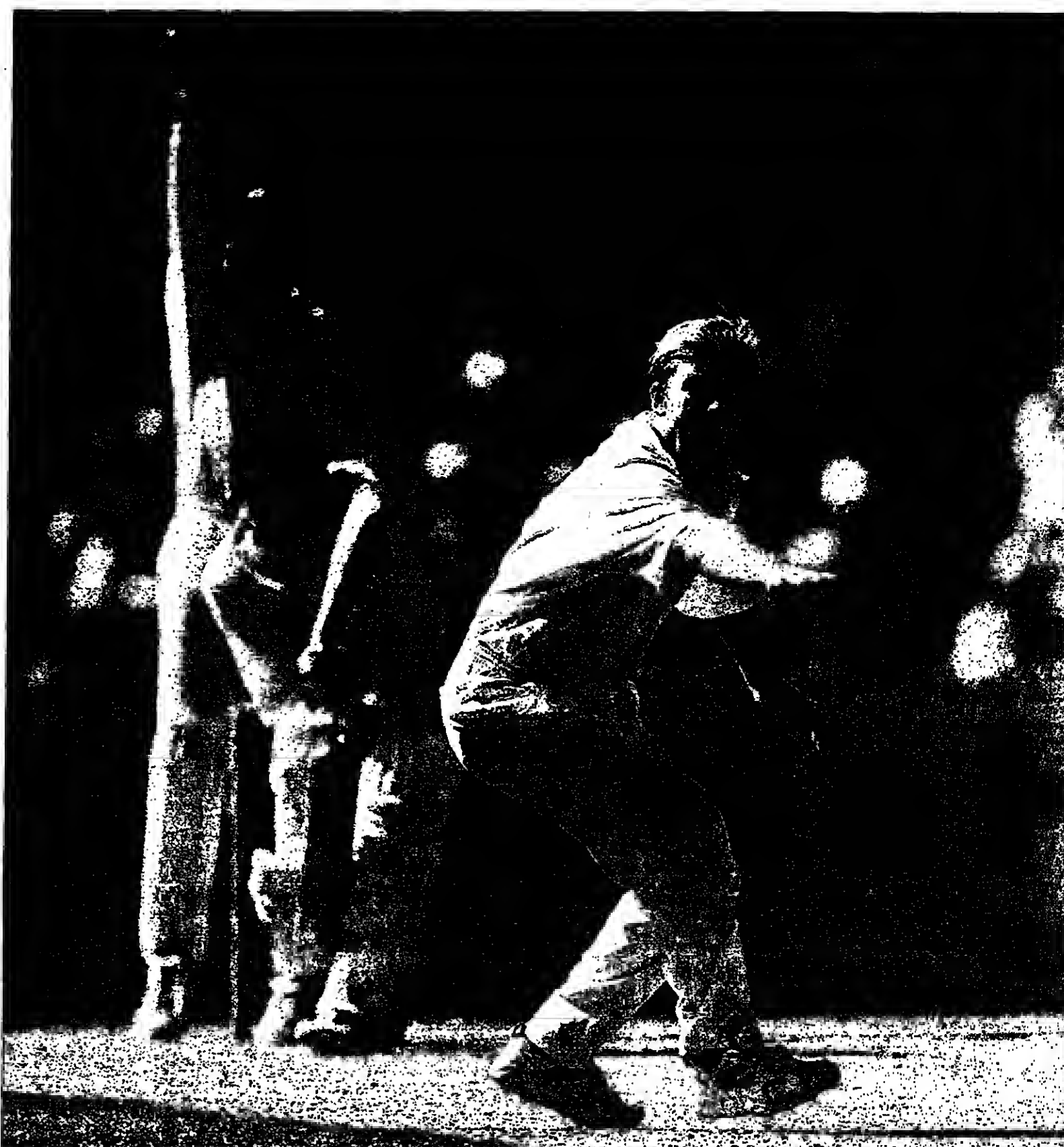
Hick arrived to play as he has so often on this trip — assured, assertive and apparently bound to make a hundred. That he again did not do so was, this time, a matter for sympathy rather than censure. He had scored 23, the best of several commanding strokes a violent hook for four against McDermott, when the same bowler belted an appeal for a catch behind and the umpire, Steve Randell, gave Hick out. If the ball actually made contact with anything other than the thigh pad, endless television replays failed to indicate what.

This was perhaps the decision that set the mood for the rest of the day, for neither Atherton nor Graham Thorpe left the crease without staring meaningfully at the umpire, in both instances Steve Bucknor, although their cases for compassion were not so convincing.

Atherton, so intent on laying the essential foundation that he had laboured 200 minutes for 44, was leg-before — on the front foot but against a leg break that straightened and kept low. Thorpe, also pushing forward to Warne, was caught at silly point, having passed 50 for the ninth time in his 22 Test innings.

When Mike Gatting swept misguidedly, and Steve Waugh judged a swirling catch well at short fine-leg, Warne had taken three for eight in 40 balls. Graham Gooch remained, stoical in defence but sufficiently unbothered to hit the only four conceded by Warne in 20 overs.

Already, it has been a hectic game for Warne — he had a housewarming party on Christmas Eve and sacked and replaced his manager. Bowling out England must seem boringly routine.



Atherton, despite pushing well forward to Warne, was ruled leg-before by umpire Bucknor after scoring 44. Photograph: Graham Morris

### SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

|  |                              |                                   |                              |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>AUSTRALIA: First Innings</b>                                    |                              | <b>ENGLAND: First Innings</b>     |                              |
| M J Slater run out (DeFreitas/Gatting) 3                           | (26min, 19 balls)            | *M A Atherton bow b Warne         | 44                           |
| *M A Taylor bow b DeFreitas  | 9                            | A J Stewart retired hurt          | 1                            |
| (73min, 41 balls, 1 four)  |                              | G A Hick c Healy b McDermott      | 28                           |
| O C Boon c Hick b Tufnell 41                                       | (140min, 100 balls, 4 fours) | G P Thorpe c M E Waugh b Warne 51 | (150min, 117 balls, 5 fours) |
| M E Waugh c Thorpe b DeFreitas 71                                  | (215min, 165 balls, 3 fours) | G A Gooch not out                 | 15                           |
| M G Steven c Atherton b Gough 8                                    | (22min, 23 balls)            | M W Gatting c S R Waugh b Warne 9 | (23min, 21 balls)            |
| S R Waugh not out  | 94                           |                                   |                              |
| (22min, 19 balls, 2 fours)   |                              |                                   |                              |
| *I A Healy c Rhodes b Tufnell 17                                   | (56min, 42 balls, 1 four)    |                                   |                              |
| S W Waugh c Hick b Gough 6   | (27min, 25 balls)            |                                   |                              |
| C J McDermott b Gough 0  | (5min, 3 balls)              |                                   |                              |
| O W Fleming c Hick b Malcolm 16                                    | (53min, 19 balls, 2 fours)   |                                   |                              |
| Extras (b 7, nb 3)   | 10                           |                                   |                              |
| Total (107.3 overs, 471 min)                                       | 279                          |                                   |                              |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Taylor 3, 2-39 (Boon 22, 3-51 (M E Waugh 32, |                              |                                   |                              |

**ENGLAND: Second Innings**  
 4-100 (M E Waugh 38, 5-171 (S R Waugh 30, 6-228 (S R Waugh 59, 7-220 (S R Waugh 61), 8-242 (S R Waugh 73), 9-242 (S R Waugh 73).  
**BOWLING:** Malcolm 26.3-4-78-1 (nb 2: 5-3-14-0, 7-1-18-0, 3-0-8-0, 3-0-10-0, 7-0-18-0, 2-3-0-10-1); DeFreitas 23-4-69-4 (nb 1: 8-2-16-4, 4-0-15-0, 2-0-13-0, 4-1-11-1, 4-1-13-0); Gough 26-9-60-4 (5-3-15-0, 7-3-8-1, 6-2-14-0, 4-0-7-1, 4-1-15-2); Tufnell 25-7-58-2 (nb 1: 4-1-5-0, 11-4-31-1, 12-2-23-1); Hick 2-0-0-0 (one spell).  
**ENGLAND: Second Innings**  
 \*M A Atherton bow b Warne 44  
 A J Stewart retired hurt 1  
 G A Hick c Healy b McDermott 28  
 G P Thorpe c M E Waugh b Warne 51  
 G A Gooch not out 15  
 M W Gatting c S R Waugh b Warne 9  
 Extras (b 7, nb 3) 10  
 Total (107.3 overs, 471 min) 279  
 FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Taylor 3, 2-39 (Boon 22, 3-51 (M E Waugh 32,

O Gough not out 1  
 Extras (b 2, nb 2) 4  
 Total (4 wks, 88 overs, 257min) 148  
 15 J Rhodes, P A J DeFreitas, P C R Tufnell and D E Malcolm to bat.  
**FALL OF WICKETS:** 0-10 (Stewart retired, Atherton 0, 1-40 (Atherton 13, 2-119 (Thorpe 47, 3-124 (Gooch 1), 4-140 (Gooch 8).  
**BOWLING:** McDermott 18-4-43-1 (nb 3: 10-4-24-1, 5-0-19-0); Fleming 11-5-30-0 (5-4-9-0, 5-1-21-0); M E Waugh 3-1-11-0 (nb 1: one spell); Warne 20-8-34-3 (5-1: 11-0, 3-0-7-1, 12-7-16-3); May 10-5-23-0 (nb 1: 8-3-12-0, 10-2-16-0).  
 Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and S G Randell (Australia).  
 TV replay umpire: W P Sheehan.  
 Match referee: J R Reid (New Zealand).  
**PREVIOUS MATCH:** First Test (Brisbane): Australia won by 184 runs.  
**MATCHES TO COME:** Third Test: Sydney (January 1 to 5). Fourth Test: Adelaide (January 26 to 30). Fifth Test: Perth (February 6 to 7).  
 © Compiled by Bill Frindall

## Referee's card trick steals Le Tissier thunder

Southampton 2  
 Wimbledon 3

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

MATTHEW LE TISSIER is not used to having his thunder stolen, especially when he has added yet another magnificent goal to his glittering collection. Yet, at The Dell yesterday, Graham Poll grabbed centre stage with a display of refereeing that would have had the good burghers of FIFA purring with satisfaction. Le Tissier's gem almost paled into insignificance.

Poll, 31, the youngest referee in the FA Cup Premier League, booked 11 players and dismissed one. Andy Thorn, the Wimbledon captain, in a blaze of yellow and red that set a match record for the Premier League this season. Ten members of the Mansfield Town team became the record number of players from a Football League club to be booked in one match — the FA Cup third-round tie away to

Crystal Palace — in January 1963. However, if yesterday's match gave the impression of a malevolent post-Christmas scrap, it could not have been further from reality.

Southampton and Wimbledon were competitive, as usual, but the list of offenders grew more from Poll's rigid insistence on enforcing the directives of FIFA, the sport's world governing body, than any mass outbreak of individual warfare. Four or five yellow cards, and no red, would have sufficed.

Poll, from Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, is one of the strictest enforcers for FIFA and readily admits that taking the common-sense factor out of the game, which has incensed so many football folk this season, is not his problem. He is simply following orders, to the nth degree.

While he remains coldly unemotional about it, others cannot. Players became abused while managers, like Alan Ball, of Southampton, and Joe Kinnear, of Wimble-

don, talk of threats to their livelihood and of being prevented from earning a decent living.

Kinnear wanted to talk to Poll about the 53rd-minute sending-off of Thorn, for his second caution, but he was not allowed into the referee's room. Ball, also bewildered by some of the goings on, did manage to get an audience.

### Busy day for officials

REFEREES were busy in England and Scotland yesterday — and not just at Southampton where 11 players were booked and Andy Thorn, of Wimbledon, sent off. Nine players were sent off in Premiership and Endleigh League matches, three were dismissed in the GM Vauxhall Conference while in Scotland, three Montrose players were among seven given red cards.

At Filbert Street there were eight yellow cards in Liverpool's 2-1 win over Leicester

"He [Poll] reckons he had a good game and was always in control," Ball claimed. "The answers I was given were the same I'd had for 40 years. I might as well not have gone in there. What's the point?"

Poll declined to share his views with the media, sending only a copy of his match report for public consumption. It revealed that all the bookings

bar one were for ungentlemanly conduct, which covers a multitude of sins. Thus, few were any wiser for Poll's liberal name-taking — apart from the FIFA overlords.

Shame, really. Although the match was littered with crass defending, some of it appropriately pantomime in its nature, the sum total of the parts was enjoyable and often engrossing. Five goals, three shots against the woodwork, a resilient showing from ten-man Wimbledon and a controversial penalty winner.

Segers, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, began it all by allowing Dodd's weak shot to squirm through his arms and legs in the tenth minute. Nine minutes later, Grobbelaar imitated Segers's incompetence by flapping at a cross and Holdsworth tucked in Ekoku's smart pass after the ball had run free.

Grobbelaar missed another centre, when Harford nodded Wimbledon ahead, then Le Tissier stepped up, in the 43rd minute, to carve another notch

on his brilliant belt. Once, twice, he juggled the ball in front of him before crashing a fearsome half-volley, from 25 yards, for his sixteenth goal of the season.

As the yellow fever spread, the second half disintegrated into an increasingly techy stop-start affair, eventually decided when Ekoku lost possession, bumped into Heaney and fell over. Penalties have rarely been awarded for less but Holdsworth cleanly dispatched it. At least Vinny Jones avoided Poll's displeasure, unlike Hughes, Dowie, Magilton, Wedderburn and Dodd, of Southampton, and Harford, Elkins, Perry, Thorn, Holdsworth and Ekoku, of Wimbledon. Jones, Wimbledon's newly-Welsh warrior, was absent with a stomach bug. Just as well.

**SOUTHAMPTON** (4-2-3): B Grobbelaar — J Kenna, R Hall, T Wedderburn, K McKou — J Dodd, J Magilton, D Hughes (sub: C Maxwell), 75) N Heaney (sub: P McDonald), 75) — I Dowie, M Le Tissier  
**WIMBLEDON** (4-4-2): H Segers — K Cunningham, A Thorn, C Perry, A Kinnear — E Ekoku, W Barton, R Eadie, G Eadie — O Holdsworth (sub: N Ardley, 84), M Harford  
 Referee: G Poll

## HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR LOOKS.

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STARTS 27th DEC. 11am\*

| DESCRIPTION                   | PRICE           | SALE PRICE DOWN TO |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
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| or 3 shirts for £ 69          |                 |                    |
| 100% Wool 3 button S/B suits  |                 |                    |
| Flint                         | £250            | £175               |
| Grey pinstripe                | £250            | £175               |
| Willow                        | £250            | £175               |
| 100% Wool check sports jacket | £150            | £115               |
| 100% Cotton denim shirt       | £ 45            | £ 29               |
| 100% Lambs wool crew neck     | £ 37.50         | £ 25               |
| Assorted casual trousers      | £ 50            | £ 35               |

\*Featherbed St, Broadgate & Canary Wharf sales start 28th Dec.

BLAZER







# Newcastle curb cavalier approach in bid to catch leaders



Keegan: good result

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Leeds United .....     | 0 |
| Newcastle United ..... | 0 |

By PETER BALL

THERE were two possible explanations for yesterday's unseasonal offering at Elland Road. Either it was just one of those days, or Newcastle, the heedless cavaliers taking everyone by storm in early season, have turned roundhead in the attempt to get back on track.

First thoughts tended towards the former, with the suspicion that those days arrive all too often at Leeds, where the home team scurry around stopping the other side playing with a will, but show few

signs of doing anything themselves. Yesterday they restricted Newcastle to one real threat, Lukic making a brilliant save, and contrived a couple of half-chances themselves.

But for a side which had won only once in eight games, and slipped out of the top two, Newcastle were surprisingly content with a 0-0 draw. "It was a good result for us," Kevin Keegan insisted. "We've got Manchester United to come to Newcastle and we've still got to play Blackburn. Don't write us off yet."

"People tend to look at draws as two points lost, but these one points add up at the end of the season. It keeps Leeds a distance from us, which was important, and we were a bit more mean today."

Howard Wilkinson thought so, too. "They were difficult to beat, and perhaps they set out to be difficult to beat. There was a definite change of emphasis to their usual approach," the Leeds manager said.

But if Newcastle for once defended with purpose, that did little to excuse Leeds, who increasingly appear to regard hard work as an end in itself rather than as a means to an end. Whelan and Masinga failed to make any impression on Albert and Howey, Newcastle's latest central defence coping with some ease.

Palmer's move back to centre-midfield should relieve McAllister from some of the negative duties, but does not seem to have done. On

one occasion McAllister ran 40 yards to close down Srinicek. Full marks for commitment, but a waste of effort — Srinicek cleared and when the ball reached the Leeds midfield, the man most likely to do something with it was trotting back from an outside position.

But after a bright start, that summed up the game. Perhaps if Mr Worrall had given a penalty in the first minute, when Pemberton scythed down Kinson, things would have been different. At least Mr Worrall was consistent — he didn't give anything from the first minute to the 85th, when Strachan was brought down from behind by Howey on the edge of the box.

Pemberton, too, was consistent,

ending the game swapping pushes and punches with Cole. He escaped without reprimand, as did Cole.

But perhaps Mr Worrall decided that Cole was suffering frustration enough. He has now gone six games without a goal for Newcastle, his worst spell since he arrived there, and while he was in Leeds, Malcolm Allison was returning to the attack with a critique of his contribution.

Cole can console himself with the thought that Allison, who lost a championship by buying Rodney Marsh, paid £1 million for Steve Daley and bought Barry Silkman not once but twice, does not have an unimpeachable record as a judge.

"At the moment he's trying to work out a new partnership with

Paul Kinson. It hasn't lived up to my expectations yet, but things take time," Keegan said.

"I think they've got the ability to be a good pair, but at the moment they aren't sure where to run, they aren't sure what the other is thinking. They are working at it and will get the reward, but the hard work has to come first."

Cole might take greater encouragement from the news that Beardsley might be back for Saturday's game at Norwich.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-3): G Kelly, J Pemberton, G Whelan (sub: N Worthington), A Dorrans, D White, C Palmer, C McAllister, G Speed, N Whelan, P Mudge (sub: G Strachan, 85min).

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-3): P Sweeney, S Howey, P Kinson, J Beardsley, R For, R Lee, P Bracewell, S Watson, A Cole, P Kinson.

Referee: J Worrall



Poole, the Leicester City goalkeeper, left, and McManaman watch anxiously as the Liverpool forward's effort drifts narrowly wide at Filbert Street yesterday

## McManaman makes the running

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Leicester City ..... | 1 |
| Liverpool .....      | 2 |

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BOXING Day came laden with gifts for Liverpool. Their first FA Carling Premiership victory in six games, putting them back on the fringe of the championship race, was a cruel blow to Leicester City's attempts to survive in the lower reaches of the division.

The match turned on two penalties within four minutes, the first missed by Leicester, the second scored by Fowler. Then, at three minutes past one, Rush stole a goal on the end of a classic Liverpool counter-attack, returning to the centre circle at a time when his racehorse, Great Mar-

quess, was romping home in the 1.05 at Hereford, the Turkey Novices Hurdle.

Yet for most of the first hour, the attacks were less penetrating than the bidding war. There were eight yellow cards in the match, begun and ended by goals for Grayson, for two late fouls, on McManaman in the fiftieth minute and then, eight minutes from time, on Bjornebye. It brought, inevitably, the sixth red card of Leicester's wretched season.

Yet that discoloured the truth of the afternoon. In only the second match since Mark McGhee took over Leicester's relegation fight, he had redirected the efforts of his players into passing and rhythm, the hallmarks of his Reading team. But he acknowledges that his inheritance is inade-

quate. He believes he will sign two desperately needed players this week, though not in time for Leicester's visit to Manchester United on Wednesday.

That is a pity for, in Mark Draper, Leicester possess a midfielder player who proved yesterday that he can be a general who is a match for the best. There was one moment to cherish when he rode a tackle from McManaman, showed the ball to Barnes and imperiously dragged it back from the England player.

It was exquisite skill but there was not enough of it in a struggling side. Leicester have won only once in their last ten games and those recruits to release Draper from having to tackle back in a role which is foreign to him cannot come soon enough. Gradually the

blue shirts of Leicester were put in retreat. McManaman, returning after knee ligament damage, injected vital pace for Liverpool, and would have scored in the 56th minute but for a masterful save from Poole.

The penalties were about to change the afternoon. After 63 minutes Barnes, of all people, made a nuisance of himself in defence, his lunging tackle on Philpott bringing what even Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, conceded was a penalty. Up strode Thompson, but his right-foot shot was clawed to earth by James.

"He's developing into a fair goalkeeper," Evans concluded. Fair, for though James at times worries his defence with his flapping at aerial balls, he is a shot-stopper of renown, and his anticipation and reach

for the penalty were brilliant. Decisive, too, for within three minutes the referee, Gerald Ashby, had confounded everybody by awarding a penalty at the other end. He gestulated that he had seen an elbow, apparently used by Hill on Scales. Fowler, though still a teenager, is not as fallible as Thompson. He scored his eighteenth goal of the season with check and assurance, sending Poole the wrong way.

The cruelty of the class gap is not only shown by a penalty taker. For, after 77 minutes, Barnes and McManaman began a teasing, sweeping manoeuvre of passes and movement from deep in Liverpool territory. Ultimately, Barnes's through ball cut Leicester apart and Fowler then produced a touch to offer

Rush the goal that he scored with a flick from five yards.

"One Brian Little" a forlorn and desperate band of Leicester supporters chanted. How quickly they forget that it was Little who deserted their team. Yet there was a remnant of Little's way, because McGhee called on the aerial power of Roberts and, from an Agnew free kick three minutes from time, Roberts rose, virtually unimpeded, to head in the consolation goal. Even then it was not finished, for James had to make a fantastic reflex save from Blake, not a yard away.

LEICESTER CITY (4-5-1): K Poole — S Grayson, J Walsh, C Hill, M Whitow — P Carr (sub: J Roberts, 77min), M Draper, M Scales, S Thompson (sub: S Agnew, 77), L Philpott, D O'Leary.

LIVERPOOL (4-5-2): O James — J Scales, N Ruddock, P Babb — R Jones (sub: M Thomas, 85), S McManaman, J Pedronapp, J Barnes, S Agnew (sub: A Rush, R Fowler). Referee: G Ashby.

## Burley gets preview of fighting spirit at Ipswich

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| West Ham United ..... | 1 |
| Ipswich Town .....    | 1 |

By MEL WEBB

IF GEORGE Burley becomes Ipswich manager this week, he will inherit a team that on the evidence of their performance in a curate's egg of a match yesterday might be short on subtlety but will perish before it gives up its struggle to stay in the FA Carling Premiership.

Burley, 38, the former Ipswich full back and Scottish international, resigned as the player-manager of Colchester United on Christmas Eve and has been interviewed by the Ipswich board. Personal terms and a compensation deal with Colchester have still to be agreed, but the indications are that Burley will take over at Portman Road inside the next 48 hours.

Burley was at Upton Park to watch Ipswich slug out a deserved draw after being put through the wringer by West Ham in the second half of a match that lacked for the finer points of the game but partly made up for it with a sort of roistering enthusiasm. It was not the Ipswich of Bobby Robson or the West Ham of Ron Greenwood, but it made acceptable fare for all that.

The impending arrival of Burley meant that this was probably Paul Goddard's last match as the Suffolk club's caretaker-manager. Goddard has been in temporary charge since the resignation of John Lyall, his mentor at West Ham in the Eighties and Ipswich in the Nineties, on December 5, and if this is his final week in the job he will give it up with obvious reluctance.

"As far as I'm concerned I'm still caretaker manager, and I shall carry on until I hear otherwise," he said. "I would love to stay on because I am very happy at Ipswich, but I will work as hard as I can whatever post I am given."

"No matter what happens, I'm very proud of the way they played today. We may have lacked the killer touch once or twice, and we had to deal with some heavy pressure, but overall I'm pleased with our performance."

Goddard's pleasure was justified. Ipswich, severely challenged, paddled away up an increasingly muddy creek this season, showed a sense of purpose and, more important, a disinclination to yield that could yet serve them well in their efforts to lift themselves from the bottom of the table. If they do not make it — and this was their seventh game without a victory — it will not be for the want of effort.

They slaved away unstintingly after West Ham, revealing a freedom in attack that belied the dubious honour of being one of the most goal-shy sides in the country, took the lead in the sixteenth minute.

The lively Rush was the provider, Cottee the scorer as he ran on to a through-ball and waited for Forrest to make his move before slipping it for his fourth goal in two games.

West Ham exerted a defensive yoke on Ipswich in the early stages of the second half, and their visitors' equaliser in the seventieth minute, a firm header by Thomson from Kiwomya's cross, reduced West Ham to silent outrage.

It might, indeed, have been even worse had Mason taken the chance given him by a defensive hiatus between Dicks and Hughes five minutes later. A point apiece was just about right — but Ipswich will still be thinking about what might have been.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): L Makenzie — T Bracken, A Martin, S Potts (sub: M Rieley, 70min), J Dicks — M Rush, I Bellho, J Holmes, S Milton, A Collier, J Bostrom.

IPSWICH TOWN (4-4-2): C Forrest — F Kustov, J Work, P Whelan, A Naughton — P Mason, S Milton, G Williams, S Sedgley (sub: S Slater, 48) — C Kiwomya, C Thomson.

Referee: P Duxton

## Arsenal let slip chance to break home jinx

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Arsenal .....     | 0 |
| Aston Villa ..... | 0 |

By IVO TENNANT

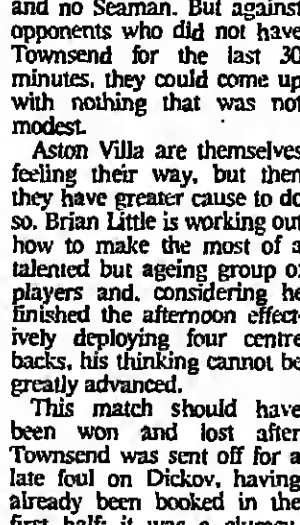
EVEN when they are playing against ten men, Arsenal still cannot win at home. The youngest forward line George Graham has fielded found, like their elders before them, that Highbury can be as unforgiving a ground as anywhere else.

Graham had been prepared for the cat calls which, it should be noted, were aimed exclusively at the players, and so still has the self-belief and bearing to dismiss any talk of impending relegation.

Yet Arsenal have not won at Highbury in the FA Carling Premiership since October. They can neither pass the ball with accuracy nor shoot without speculation. True, there was no Wright, no Adams, and no Seaman. But against opponents who did not have Townsend for the last 30 minutes, they could come up with nothing that was not modest.

Aston Villa are themselves feeling their way, but then they have greater cause to do so. Brian Little is working out how to make the most of a talented but ageing group of players and, considering he finished the afternoon effectively deploying four centre backs, his thinking cannot be greatly advanced.

This match should have been won and lost after Townsend was sent off for a late foul on Dickow, having already been booked in the first half; it was a clumsy,



Townsend: clumsy foul

rather than malicious offence, and you sensed that one or two Arsenal players felt for him. This was his return to first-team football after a six-match suspension.

The referee, Kelvin Morton, had booked three players in the opening 12 minutes and consequently left himself with no scope for leniency. Villa regrouped by bringing on McGrath to play alongside Teale and Ehiogu and eventually moving Fashanu into the back four as well.

Campbell had two or three shots on the turn and a low drive by Dickow went past a post in the penultimate minute, but the reality was that Arsenal were completely bereft of intuition. It was not the occasion for Graham to compare Hughes, an 18-year-old Ipswich player whose debut this was, with Liam Brady. Hughes had no more idea how to create an opening than anybody else. The other individual making a debut, Taylor, showed the odd decent touch and will remember this match long after everybody else has forgotten it.

Among the sizeable crowd was the distinct figure of the Foreign Secretary. The time was when the Conservative Party's Cabinet would have been given a different lead by the Prime Minister and spent Boxing Day shooting pheasants. After this, Douglas Hurd should revert to type.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): B Barmby — L Dixon, S Bold, M Keown, N Winterburn — R Parlor, S Hughes (sub: M Potts, 70min), S Morris, S Schwartz, K Campbell, P Dickow.

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): N Spink — E Barrett, S Teale, U Ehiogu, S Salmons — R Houghton, K Richardson, A Townsend, I Taylor — O Saunders (sub: P McGrath, 68), J Fashanu.

Referee: K Morton

## Southgate's efforts poorly rewarded

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Crystal Palace .....      | 0 |
| Queens Park Rangers ..... | 0 |

By PAT GIBSON

IT WAS not just because this is the season of goodwill that Alan Smith, the Crystal Palace manager, remained remarkably sanguine for a man whose team has now gone six Premiership matches without scoring a goal.

"I was disappointed, of course, but I haven't really got any complaints about anything at all," he said. "We played well, and that's all I can ask of my players. If the goals don't go in..."

His voice trailed off, which was not surprising considering that he had said it all before, leaving Ray Wilkins, who was going to play for Palace this season but finished up managing Rangers, to complete the evening up. "We were never in the game," he said. "Crystal Palace were by far the better side and we're grateful for a point."

So they should be. Palace, who have not scored in the league since they beat Ipswich on November 5, could have had four or five such as their supremacy over a Rangers side which never troubled Martyn in the Palace goal.

Southgate, an outstanding Palace captain, could have had a hat-trick. He hit the angle of post and bar and the inside of a post and saw another shot brilliantly tipped over by Dykstra.

Armstrong headed wide with the goal at his mercy from one of a stream of crosses from Salako, who had a marvellous game on the

Palace left and has clearly put his injury problems behind him to recover the form which once took him into the England squad.

It was Salako who set the pattern of the game, cutting in to test Dykstra with both left and right. But it was Southgate who went closest to beating him with three superb efforts, any one of which deserved a goal.

In the tenth minute, he turned and shot 25 yards but struck the angle with Dykstra beaten; in the sixteenth minute he struck a left-foot volley from the edge of the area only for the 6ft 4in Dutch goalkeeper to turn the ball acrobatically over the bar; and in the 61st minute his measured shot hit the inside of the right-hand post and rolled along the line before being scrambled away.

To be fair to Rangers, they stood up resolutely to the Palace onslaught although Wilkins was honest enough to admit: "It was a case of having too, wasn't it? We were under pressure from the first minute and it was a very tough game for us."

At least the Palace supporters kept their sense of humour amid all their frustration. Ten minutes from the end they were chanting for the substitute, Williams. No sooner had Smith given them what they wanted than the cry went up: "Get him off."

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): N Martin — J Humphrey, C Coleman, R Shaw, G Gordon — J Cox (sub: P Wilkins, 85min), G Southgate, R Newman, J Salako, C Armstrong, A Preece.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): S Dykstra — S Tait, O Meech, A McPhee, C Wilson, A Preece, S Barker, S Hodges, I Sinclair (sub: M Meier, 67) — K Gullen, I Fordham.

Referee: B Hill

## Forest fail to spark the imagination

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Coventry City .....     | 0 |
| Nottingham Forest ..... | 0 |

By OLIVER HOLT

FOUR fire engines, sirens blaring and blue lights flashing, bore down on Highfield Road an hour before the kick-off yesterday. There was a gas leak somewhere beneath the main stand and there were fears of an explosion. They evacuated the stadium and kept the supporters locked outside until the danger had been cleared.

The explosion never came. Not before the game and certainly not during it. There was scarcely a spark of entertainment from either side and Collymore, Forest's £6.5 million-rated forward, who left gaping holes in Manchester United's defence ten days ago, looked a lethargic imitation of his menacing best.

After that, there was little to cheer the spectators. The odd run from Ndlovu, fine defending from Borrows, some nice touches and passes by Bohinen and a fierce, dipping shot from Woan. Forest occasionally made Coventry look the pedestrian side they are but the half-chances that fell to

Pearce, still smarting from his enforced apology to Paul Ince, the United midfielder player, after allegations of racial abuse, could have dragged the game into life. In the 21st minute when Bohinen was tripped in the penalty area by Morgan as Coventry paid too much attention to Collymore and neglected his team-mates.

But, as the home supporters screamed their own abuse at Pearce, a former Coventry idol, he hammered the ball against the top of the crossbar with such force that it spiralled high onto the roof of the stand.

After that, there was little to cheer the spectators. The odd run from Ndlovu, fine defending from Borrows, some nice touches and passes by Bohinen and a fierce, dipping shot from Woan. Forest occasionally made Coventry look the pedestrian side they are but the half-chances that fell to

Collymore disappeared in two instants of poor control.

As the game wore on and the spectators wilted it to finish, Coventry emerged marginally the stronger. But just when Ndlovu seemed about to tear Forest apart, he was denied by a fine saving tackle from Lytle.

Forest remained content to soak up the pressure and to try and strike on the break. When Collymore is on form, that might be an acceptable policy. Yesterday, without Roy, it was a recipe for boredom, the cold turkey after the excesses of Christmas Day.

"The system that Forest play away forces you to take the game to them," Phil Neal, the Coventry manager, said. "They try to hit you on the break. There was a period in the second half when we got a little bit of momentum going but it was always likely to be a draw or a one-nil. It could

have gone either way and we probably had the best chances over the 90 minutes. We need to think about shooting more."

Frank Clark, the Forest manager, was disappointed that his team had failed to secure their third win in four games and in the process had slipped below Liverpool to fifth place. "I see it as two points lost today," he said.

"We had enough of the ball but we were not sharp enough or imaginative enough in and around their penalty area to take advantage of that. Stuart Pearce does not miss too many penalties. It was crucial for us but he will be taking the next one, that is for sure."

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogilvie — B Sonnes, S Preece, D Budd (sub: A Polkinghorne, 31min), S Morgan — J Darby, P Cook, P McRobert, C Jones — S Flynn, R Waggoner (sub: M Oguni, 70).

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-5-1): M Crossley — D Lytle, G Cooper, S O'Neill, Pearce — S Stone, S Gerrard (sub: P McDermott, 55), L Bohinen, I Woan, G Pollock (sub: A L Holland, 24) — S Collymore.

Referee: A Wills

## Tottenham surge spurred by Barmby

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Norwich City .....      | 0 |
| Tottenham Hotspur ..... | 2 |

By A CORRESPONDENT

HAVING discovered a defensive solidity under Gerry Francis, Tottenham yesterday offered a reminder of their attacking prowess in securing their first away win during his tenure as manager. Victory was all the more notable in that it was secured at Carrow Road, where Norwich have not been generous hosts season.

"The players have given everything since I took over and to put together a six-match unbeaten run against some very difficult opposition is no mean achievement," Francis said. "As a team, we are defending very well and we are also attacking well." Evidence of the latter

came in the form of goals from Nicky Barmby, in the eleventh minute, and Teddy Sheringham just before the end.

Yet the points came at a price. Howells, Anderton, Campbell and Barmby picked up injuries which make them doubtful for the match against Crystal Palace this evening. "It's just something I am going to have to accept," Francis added. "I didn't want us to play twice in two days but that was decided before I became manager and we've just got to get on with it."

There was an element of controversy about the opening goal, with the Norwich defence appealing in vain for offside as Anderton broke free down the right before crossing to Barmby, who scored from close range. Tottenham, however, might have taken the lead twice before

and the goal was reward for their bright start.

Tottenham continued to look the better side for much of the game, but their intricate approach play was not matched by their finishing and Norwich, outclassed for long periods, almost made them pay in the final 15 minutes. Yet the Norfolk side's hopes of sustaining their unbeaten run at home, which had lasted 11 matches, were undone by lack of bite in front of goal. Tottenham made the game safe deep into injury time, when Sheringham's shot took a deflection off Ullathorne and looped over Gunn.

NORWICH CITY (4-4-2): S Burns — M Brown, R Ullathorne, J Polson, J Newcombe — O Smith, I Crook, J Goos, O Exile — M Roberts, A Ward.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-3-3): Moller — O Austin, C Caldwell, G McLeat, S Campbell — G Popescu, D Howells, O Anderton — N Barmby, J Kierehmann, E Sheringham, I Dicks.

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Hibernian's championship pretensions cruelly exposed at Ibrox

## Rangers hint at more creative style

Rangers ..... 2  
Hibernian ..... 0

By KEVIN MCCARRA

HIBERNIAN left Ibrox yesterday burdened not only with defeat but also with desolation. The Scottish champions' lavish mastery of them must have given the visitors the brooding feeling that they are merely part of the Rangers' retinue in the premier division. The Edinburgh club had thought themselves challengers, but now find themselves 13 points behind the leaders after their second defeat of the season.

We have now entered the months in which Rangers traditionally expose a great many ambitions as delusions. With new year in the offing, they seem ever more capable of scripting the old triumphant story. The Hibernian manager rightly complained about the manner in which his defence conceded goals here, but Rangers' might have scored on a clutch of other occasions.

Walter Smith, the Rangers' manager, surely has more than just another title on his mind. The club's disappointments in the European Cup have brought not just alterations and rejuvenation to the side, but also reflection on Rangers' whole style of play. Over the years, they, in common with most others in British football, have treated the 4-4-2 system as if it embodied some special rectitude.

All those fussy, complicated tactics could be left to devious foreigners. Unfortunately, the continentals have, of late, been getting the better of us. Rangers' defeat by AEK Athens in the Champions' League this season demonstrated a need to attack with more flexibility. The Scots had no equivalent to the Greeks' knack of springing men through a defence from midfield.

Rangers now appear to have set their sights on that fluidity. Their top scorer, Hateley, was back after injury, but the champions rarely pounded the ball for his head and absolutely refused to station a static



Gough, captain of Rangers, exudes determination as he outjumps two defenders to head his side's second goal in yesterday's 2-0 win

partner beside him. Instead, Hateley and Laudrup had deep-laying roles which invited them to indulge their taste for running with the ball.

Hibernian were always fumbling to get a grip on Rangers since they could rarely locate the next source of danger. It was ironic, therefore, that the opening goal, which came after 16 should be lacking the guile which saturated most of the home side's performance. Scott, in goal for

the injured Goram, kicked downfield for Hateley to play the ball to Huisstra, collect the return and slot a shot past Leighton.

Hibernian, reduced to panic, conceded another two minutes later. Miller unnecessarily put the ball behind and although he prevented Boli from reaching Laudrup's corner, Hunter could not complete the clearance. The centre half's kick was sliced straight up in the

air and Gough, captain of Rangers, exuded determination as he outjumps two defenders to head his side's second goal in yesterday's 2-0 win.

The visitors first shot on target came from Findlay, who had replaced the injured Miller, after 46 minutes and was promptly misdirected by Scott. His hitherto idle fingers may have been in need of defrosting.

Later, Hibernian could have been given a penalty when Boli handled, but the referee missed the incident. All the same, they can have few complaints about a result which served only to camou-

flag their inferiority. At least Hibernian supporters did see Wright, after operation and injury, play his first game of the season. The exercise for him and his team-mates, however, consisted of being given the run-around.

RANGERS (4-3-2-1): C Scott — A McLennan, B Boli, R Gough, O Robertson — C Miller, S McGuff, P Hyslop — B Laudrup, G Durn — M Hyslop (sub: C Moore 74min).  
HIBERNIAN (4-4-2): J Leighton — P McGarity, G Hunter, S Tweed, W Miller (sub: W Roddy, 25) — G Evans, O Jackson, B Hamilton, M O'Neill — K Harper (sub: K McAllister, 70), K Wright.  
Referee: E Macdonald

## Middlesbrough stay clear as dishonour is even in niggling feud

Sheffield United ..... 1  
Middlesbrough ..... 1

By LOUISE TAYLOR

SCRUFFY, scrappy and sometimes downright spiteful, this was a match to make you shudder. Dictated by wince-inducing challenges, woeful passing and a swirling wind, events at Bramall Lane were anything but wholesome.

Only the outcome was slightly satisfactory. A point each leaves Middlesbrough clear at the top of the first division of the Endleigh Insurance League, and Sheffield United still in contention for the play-offs.

On paper, that point looked commendable for Dave Bassett's team, considering that they had Beesley dismissed five minutes before the interval. The central defender trudged off after committing a second bookable offence, stupidly raising his hand in an attempt to block Miller's clearance. The first came for a foul on Moore.

In his absence, Bassett, the manager at Bramall Lane, relocated Nilsen into central defence and Hartfield to left back. Nilsen, especially, adapted well. So well that Middlesbrough failed to muster much menace until deep into the second half.

Bryan Robson's excuses? Although the Middlesbrough player-manager strove through central midfield, he badly missed Pollock's combative presence beside him. Instead, Teesside's best young player was suspended and confined to the press box, from where he watched Sheffield take the lead after 68 minutes.

Bassett's side had threatened most from set pieces, and one led to the goal when Gage's long free kick was directed past Miller by Hodgson's stooping header, courtesy of Sheffield's decoy run. It represented a rare concentration failure in a visiting defence in which Pearson excelled. He

was deployed in an unfamiliar formation, Robson opting to counter Sheffield's physical presence — they field eight players taller than 6ft — with three central defenders.

Even so, pushing his full back forward was a dangerous game against a United team that specialises in quality crosses. Fleming, particularly, must take considerable credit for curtailing that service.

The supply from Whitehouse, on the Sheffield left, was cut completely by an injury in the second half. Significantly, his withdrawal coincided with Middlesbrough's brightest spell.

Hodges, too, has a sophisticated left foot, which is more than can be said for some of his tackling. The middle player was fortunate to stay on the field after a horrible challenge on Hendrie late in the first half. Then, the referee regarded his pulling of Moore's ears with perplexing leniency.

By the time Hodges opened the scoring, Hendrie had long since limped off — his dead-leg a direct result of that foul. In truth, Hendrie had failed to make much of an impact in a rearranged attack that featured Moore out of position on the right.

Hignett substituted for Hendrie and scored the equaliser after 73 minutes. Cox's cross from the right was diverted by Gayle and fell to Hignett. From eight yards, he volleyed crisply.

Wilkinson had constantly come second in his aerial duel with Gayle, and he proved equally anaemic when, after 88 minutes, a rare chance fell at his feet. With hundreds of disillusioned patrons heading for the exits, Wilkinson mis-cued from six yards.

SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-2): A Kelly — K Gage, B Gayle, P Beesley, R Nilsen — T Rogers, C Hartfield, G Hodgson, O Whitehouse (sub: P Starucki, 75min) — C Vean, A Scott.  
MIDDLESBROUGH (3-4-3): A Miller — N Pearson, S Williams, O Wright, M Cox, G Kavanagh, B Robson, C Fleming, J Hendrie (sub: C Hignett, 45), P Wilkinson, A Referee: J Rushmore

## Exeter's lack of pedigree exposed on derby day

Exeter City ..... 1  
Torquay United ..... 2

By STUART JONES

THERE is a practical and humane, albeit unseasonably cold-hearted, solution to the difficulties afflicting the likes of Exeter City.

Give up the struggle for survival, both on and off the pitch, in the neither regions of the Endleigh Insurance League and turn the staff into

semi-professionals. A third successive home defeat, further endangering their immediate future in the third division, acted as another psychological blow to a club which appears to be down if not out.

Exeter's opponents, let alone their West Country neighbours in front of their biggest crowd of the season, pose the least of their problems.

So impoverished that their squad has resorted to making records to raise vital funds.

Exeter have angered some locals in a far from abundant catchment area.

Plans to relocate the ground, from the narrow backstreets near the cathedral to the marshlands by the estuary, have been strongly opposed by environmentalists.

Nobody would dispute that St James' Park requires extensive modernisation. A relic of the age before the Taylor Report, it resembles Plough Lane, the tin shack that was once Wimbledon's home.

The team, yet to be settled this season, needs a complete overhaul as well. But the manager, Terry Cooper, is virtually penniless. The talents at his disposal, on yesterday's evidence at least, are so limited that they would struggle to maintain a place in the Vauxhall Conference.

Although Storer ran through an inept offside trap to put Exeter ahead, their inadequacy was eventually exposed. Moore, a massive central defender with the stature

of a heavyweight boxer, equalised with a header and O'Riordan, the most cultured player on view, claimed Torquay United's winner close to the end.

The late Sir Norman Chester, when asked to reform the league, wisely suggested that the lower two divisions should be regionalised and played on a semi-professional basis. Few would not benefit from the plan, initially put forward more than a quarter of a century ago and again more

recently. Exeter, for one, would be advised to lend their wholehearted support should it be proposed once more. Their beleaguered goalkeeper can put the theory into practice himself, anyway. Barrett, an understudy, usually performs in the Great Mills League.

EXETER CITY (4-4-2): M Barrett — J Minett, M Carey, J Richardson, R Robinson — S Storer, O Bailey, J Brown, C Anderson — M Gawn, T Morgan (sub: T Daniel, 25).  
TORQUAY UNITED (4-4-2): A Bayes — O O'Riordan, L Barrow, D Moore, C Curran — G Goodridge, T Kelly, C Christie, R Hancock — O Sturges, I Halliway.  
Referee: S Dunn

## Ritchie plunders Wolves' coffers

By MEL WEBB

THE scavenging instincts of an old-time bunter hunter sent ailing Wolverhampton Wanderers to their sixth Endleigh League first division defeat in eight games yesterday.

Andy Ritchie, 34, is a touch slower and a good deal less hirsute than in his salad days with Manchester United and Leeds United, but his touch around goal is undiminished, and by scoring his second hat-trick in three games and the seventh of his career he helped to increase the worries of Graham Taylor, the Wolves manager.

Ritchie struck in the third minute from the edge of the penalty area, and made it two 13 minutes after half-time with a classic far-post header from Brennan's cross.

Wolves briefly hauled themselves back into the game through Dennisson, but further goals from Ritchie and McCarthy completed the rout to leave Wolves in fourth place, seven points behind Bryan Robson's Middlesbrough, the league leaders. Wolves, second in the table before the game, were overtaken by Tranmere and Barnsley, who both won.

Middlesbrough were held to a 1-1 by a Sheffield United side who were reduced to ten men five minutes before the break when Paul Beesley was sent off for blocking the goalkeeper with his hands, his second

bookable offence. United took the lead in the second half with a Hodges header, but Hignett gave Middlesbrough a point less than five minutes later.

Reading dropped a point in an uninspiring goalless draw at home to Luton, after which Jimmy Quinn announced that he and Mick Gooding, who are sharing the caretaker management of the club following the departure of Mark McGhee to Leicester City, have applied for the job.

Oxford opened up a three-point gap at the top of the second division after a 4-1 win at Peterborough, David Rush making up for a missed penalty by scoring twice.

Ricky Otto made a dramatic start to his career with Birmingham City when he scored in the twentieth minute against Cambridge. But the cheers turned to boos when Otto, an £800,000 signing from Southampton, put through his own goal eight minutes from time.

Wycombe stayed in third place despite a 0-0 home draw with Brighton, while Crewe Alexandra stepped up the chase with a 2-1 home win victory over Chester.

Carlisle strengthened their grip on the third division with a 5-1 win at Hartlepool. Reeves, their leading scorer, scoring twice. Bury stayed in second place after drawing 3-3 with Wigan.

| POOLS FORECAST              |   |                            |   |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Saturday December 31        |   |                            |   |
| FIRST DIVISION              |   |                            |   |
| 1 Arsenal v QPR             | 2 | 23 Barnsley v Blackpool    | 1 |
| 2 Chelsea v Wimbledon       | 1 | 24 Brentford v Oxford      | 1 |
| 3 Coventry v Tottenham      | 2 | 25 Bristol R v Chester     | 1 |
| 4 C Palace v Blackburn      | 2 | 26 Cardiff v Luton         | 1 |
| 5 Everton v Ipswich         | 1 | 27 Charlton v Northampton  | 1 |
| 6 Leeds v Liverpool         | 2 | 28 Derby v Carlisle        | 1 |
| 7 Leicester v Sheffield Wed | 2 | 29 Gillingham v Plymouth   | 1 |
| 8 Man City v Aston Villa    | 1 | 30 Huddersfield v Bolton   | 1 |
| 9 Norwich v Newcastle       | 1 | 31 Ipswich v Walsley       | 1 |
| 10 Nottm Forest v Man Utd   | 2 | 32 Walsley v Walsley       | 1 |
| 11 West Ham v Nottm F       | 1 | 33 Walsley v Walsley       | 1 |
| SECOND DIVISION             |   |                            |   |
| 12 Barnsley v Wolves        | 2 | 34 Barnsley v Wolves       | 1 |
| 13 Bury v Southend          | 2 | 35 Colchester v Hereford   | 1 |
| 14 Nottm City v Luton       | 2 | 36 Doncaster v Northampton | 1 |
| 15 Oxford v Swindon         | 2 | 37 Exeter v Wigan          | 1 |
| 16 Reading v Gillingham     | 2 | 38 Gillingham v Carlisle   | 1 |
| 17 Sheffield Utd v Nottm F  | 2 | 39 Huddersfield v Bolton   | 1 |
| 18 Stoke v Middlesbrough    | 2 | 40 Huddersfield v Bolton   | 1 |
| 19 Sunderland v Derby       | 2 | 41 Middlesbrough v Bolton  | 1 |
| 20 Tranmere v Bristol C     | 2 | 42 Preston v Scarborough   | 1 |
| 21 Walsley v Port Vale      | 2 | 43 Southend v Rochdale     | 1 |
| 22 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 44 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 23 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 45 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 24 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 46 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 25 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 47 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 26 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 48 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 27 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 49 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 28 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 50 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 29 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 51 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 30 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 52 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 31 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 53 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
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| 33 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 55 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 34 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 56 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 35 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 57 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 36 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 58 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 37 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 59 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 38 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 60 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
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| 40 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 62 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 41 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 63 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 42 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 64 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 43 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 65 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 44 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 66 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 45 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 67 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
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| 47 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 69 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
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| 66 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 88 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 67 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 89 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 68 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 90 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 69 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 91 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 70 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 92 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 71 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 93 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 72 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 94 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 73 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 95 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 74 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 96 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 75 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 97 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 76 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 98 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 77 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 99 Walsley v Doncaster     | 1 |
| 78 West Brom v Bolton       | 2 | 100 Walsley v Doncaster    | 1 |



## THE TIMES Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz

Geography is the subject in the second day of The Times Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz, which welcomes the New Year with bigger prizes than ever before.

The classic Speyside malt whisky and Britain's best quality newspaper have prepared questions on six themes: history, art and literature, geography, sport, food and drink, and general knowledge.

Each day this week we are printing five questions. When you have the answers to all the 30 questions, send them in and you could win a sporting weekend for two, with salmon fishing and golf as well as a tour of the Aberlour Distillery.

Even if you fail to win one of the 102 top prizes, your study will not go unrewarded. Every entrant who completes the 30 questions by the closing date will receive a miniature bottle of Aberlour.

## The prizes

The first two correct entries drawn at random after the closing date will each win a sporting weekend for two on Speyside, Scotland. The winners will fly to Aberdeen and spend two nights at Craigellachie House. Salmon fishing and golf will be available and there will be a tour of the Aberlour Distillery.

The next 30 correct entries will receive prizes of 30d bottles of Aberlour single malt, each with two 125ml malt whisky glasses.

A further 30 correct entries will each win a 100d bottle of 10-year-old Aberlour Single Highland Malt.

Every entrant who completes the 30 questions by January 9, 1995, will receive a miniature bottle of Aberlour.

## How To Enter

Every day this week The Times will publish five questions. When you have the answers to all 30 questions, send them on a piece of paper together with your name, address and daytime phone number to: The Times/Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz, 18-19 Whitefriars Street, London EC8 2NG.

All entries must be received by midnight on January 9, 1995. Winners will be chosen from all correct entries received by this date. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

## Day Two Questions

- 1) How many locks are there on the Caledonian Canal?
- 2) Which glen ends at the col appropriately named 'Rest And Be Thankful'?
- 3) Which island, with peaks rising 2,659ft, bears the name of a spirit/drink?
- 4) Which village on the River Lossie gave its name to a Texas city in 1845?
- 5) Which island was the setting of the novel Whisky Galore?

## Argentina's coach trying an innovative formation

David Miller looks forward to watching an intriguing clash of styles in Buenos Aires

Terry Venables ought to be making a date for observation in Riyadh in the new year, when Saudi Arabia hosts the second tournament of inter-continental champions. Daniel Passarella, captain of Argentina's winning World Cup side of 1978 and now the new national coach, will be confronting with his experimental 2-6-2 formation that has no centre forward.

Argentina, the South American champions, confront Yugoslavia here tonight with two attackers on the flanks. Ortega, of River Plate, and Rambert, of Independiente, with the centre of the pitch left invitingly free for runs from midfield. Dukic, the Yugoslav libero, who was voted the most consistent player in Spain last season, can expect to be busy.

Passarella, who was coach with River Plate until October, is fashioning a new young team, following a World Cup campaign by an ageing side in the United States that was clouded by Maradona's suspension. Given that Maradona has so much difficulty managing his private life, Buenos Aires is full of speculation on how he will handle his appointment as coach of Racing Club.

It is 28 years since Racing last won a trophy, controversially defeating Celtic in a World Club championship play-off in Montevideo, Uruguay. Since then, Racing have hired and fired 53 coaches to no avail.

By all accounts, Passarella is a disciplinarian. He has insisted on military-style haircuts for the national squad, so his youngsters tonight will look even more like school-

boys. They will not necessarily behave as such. The recent friendly with Romania, which they won by the only goal, was a rough, negative affair in which Romania had a man sent off.

What distinguishes the Argentine formation, besides the absence of a centre forward or any player from Europe, is an entire left side of five left-footed players.

Slobodan Santrac, Yugoslavia's coach, is under some pressure to achieve a satisfactory result tonight. He has been promoted by Miljan Miljanic, the national federation president, in recognition of work with the under-18 side, but the Yugoslav reporters here are critical that their re-instated team, following political suspension, is not being led by a coach of the status of Evic Osim, who is with Graz in Austria, or the elderly Vujadin Boskov, an equally famous former international and coach of Napoli.

The problem for Osim, who was in charge during the 1990 World Cup and with the team that qualified for the European championship of 1992, is that he is a Croat of Czech/Polish parentage married to a devout Muslim. The Serbs would happily accept him, but he would be threatened by Croats. Such are the political/religious complexities that stretch even into sport within the former Yugoslavia.

Santrac makes only one change for the side that lost in Brazil. Dorovic, the Red Star central defender replacing an out-of-form Dubajic, of Stuttgart. Jokanovic (Oviedo) and Mihailovic (Sampdoria) in midfield must both take fitness tests but it seems the new wave of outstanding, uncapped 20-year-olds, including Nad and Milosevic, the league's leading scorers, of Partizan, and Kovacevic and Petkovic, from Red Star, will have to bide their time on the bench.

Experience will be as critical tonight as last Friday, a highly competitive match notable for being played without a single serious foul. Possession determined that match: Brazil made some 500 passes compared to Yugoslavia's 300. Komljenovic keeps his place as an attacking right back following a promising initiation against Brazil. Born in Germany, with Croatian father and Serbian mother, he plays for Eintracht, in Frankfurt. He had the option of three national teams, but had no hesitation in choosing Serbia-Montenegro, the republic that existed before the super-powers gratuitously redraw the borders after the First World War.

A side, ably led by Dragan Stokjovic, is self-evidently united and determined in re-establishing Yugoslavia's football credibility. Victory tonight would reinforce their claim for belated inclusion in the European championship qualifying competition.

ARGENTINA (3-5-2): 2-6-2: G Basso — R Ayala, N Katalin — R Riquelme, J Zanetti, H Perez, M Escudero, C Bazzadec, M Espinoza — A Ortega, S Rambert, YOKANOVIC — M Dukic — S Komljenovic, G Dorovic, B Bryovic — S Jokanovic, V Jovic, O Stokovic, S Stokjovic — O Santrac, P Mijajovic.

TREBLE CHANGE (Home team): Cheloso, Cuyal, Pilech, Novich, Burnley, Birmingham, Brentford, Stockport, Swindon, Darlington, Walsley, Aberdeen, Hibernian.

BEST DRAWS: Norwich, Burnley, Brentford, Darlington, Hibernian.

AWAYS: Tottenham, Manchester United, Luton, West Ham, Lincoln.



# Camborne gain upper hand in Cornishmen's traditional Boxing Day encounter

## Chapman penalises Redruth's basic mistakes



David Hands visits a corner of England where the style of rugby reflects a rugged lifestyle

Sentimental folk that we are, especially at this time of year, there can be few who do not wish Cornish rugby well. There is a great warmth and affection for rugby within the Duchy which most of us witness only when the yellow and black hoards swarm out of the West to Twickenham for the final of the county championship.

This is not because Cornish rugby is the best; patently it is not. But anyone may recognise what rugby means to Cornwall. It is a corner of England which, like the southern strip of Wales, the south-west corner of France, the northern neck of Argentina, is full of men who play, or played, a hard trade and their rugby reflected what they were. Miners, fishermen, farmers.

This is no place to come for fancy footwork, although Cornwall has contributed its share of such: Richard Sharp's name springs readily to mind or the luckless Alan Buzza from recent times. But there is an independence of character to be seen in the most unlikely places: this year, perhaps, it is the fact that a woman seeks to stand as Cornwall's representative on the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

According to the regulations only those qualified for selection by England, may represent a constituent body on the RFU committee. But those regulations were drawn up before the existence of an England women's team which, since they hold their version of the World Cup, anyone might be proud to represent.

Whether the Helstone secretary, Beverley Davis, is chosen as a test case by Cornwall will not be known until February, but in this day and age there is every reason for the RFU to clarify its regulations to ensure a woman can do so.

As it is, 1994 will not go down as a vintage year for the Cornish; ousted on their own Hellfire Corner by Durham in the county championship last season, Cornwall will not even make the semi-finals of the competition this season, having lost already to Middlesex and Berkshire.

The local economy remains depressed (14 per cent unemployment in the Redruth and Camborne area) and the leading club sides can make little headway against the rising tide of players and money and jobs up-country. Last season Redruth were relegated to the national fourth division and are struggling to remain there this season against a backdrop of limited enthusiasm in the schools, few obvious career prospects and the inter-club rivalry which is part and parcel of Cornish club rugby.

It has, as its apogee, the annual Boxing Day clash between Redruth and their neighbours from two miles further west, Camborne. It says something for Redruth's fortunes that Camborne arrived at the Recreation Ground as favourites even though they occupy a division lower. Camborne won the 1993 fixture, though earlier this season the two clubs played out a 22-22 draw, and yesterday carried off the honours once more by 16-13, thanks to a last-minute penalty goal kicked by Darren Chapman.

Were a modern world to be reflected in Cornwall, the two clubs would sink their differences and join forces. As Peter Johnson, Redruth's recently appointed director of rugby said: "The playing resources of the county are stretched over too many clubs. The interclub rivalries, animosities, jealousies bred into generations of rugby players



Camborne run out in front of the home supporters at the Recreation Ground, Redruth, under the distant monument at Carn Brae. Photograph: Tim Cuff

deters players from changing clubs to improve themselves." Cornwall's century history makes the same point in a different way: "The real impetus [for the formation of a rugby club] was that Camborne should not lag for a moment longer than strictly necessary, behind Redruth." Thus in 1877, two years after

their neighbours, Camborne's club was born and it is feasible that the two could change places at the end of this season though more likely that each will stay where they are in the present club hierarchy.

Both clubs possess players of talent. Richard Carroll enjoyed a notable game in

Camborne's back row, his side dominating both the loose ball and the lineout. However, Redruth had Simon Blake who is among the top 20 point-scorers in the country. Thus they established a 13-3 lead playing with the blustery wind, only to squander it by basic errors.

There were neat tries at the

start of each half: Andy Hawken worked Andy Knowles over for Redruth in the first half and Simon Moyle's classy pick-up and run set his illustrious captain, David Weeks, free for Camborne. Though afterwards the kickers ruled and the crowd was incensed when the referee awarded the penal-

ty — for dissent — which won Camborne the match. David May, the match official and himself a late replacement, used to play for Camborne, and they do not forget such things easily in Cornwall. Perhaps, for the good of the game in the Duchy, it is time they did.

CONVERSION: Blake. PENALTY GOALS: Blake (5). CAMBORNE: Try: Weeks. Conversion: Chapman. PENALTY GOALS: Chapman (3). REDRUTH: S. Blake, A. Knowles, K. Thomas, S. Williams, A. Cowling, S. Whitworth, C. Whitworth, N. Douth, M. Phillips, R. Tomlin, G. Williams, S. O'Sullivan, A. Cook, J. Widdie, A. Hawken, S. O'Sullivan, S. Whitworth, J. Phillips (4 runs). CAMBORNE: O. Chapman, P. Wheeler, P. Gaskell, O. Lewis, D. Weeks, S. Moyle, J. Chappell, P. Morris, S. Richardson, S. Dales, N. Penrose, N. Cuddeback, A. Adams, R. Carroll, M. Gray. Chappell replaced by A. Chapman (77). SCORES: Redruth: Try: Knowles. REFEREE: D. May (Cornwall).

## Stirling caught on the rebound

Northampton.....34  
Stirling County.....15

By JOHN HOPKINS

NORTHAMPTON won the re-match ceremonies reeling at the red carpet for their Scottish visitors, with some spirited playing by the Northampton pipe band. Then they won the match, a thoroughly Christmas affair full of muckabout stuff including a try scored when the ball rebounded from behind the line.

After their thrashing in this fixture last year, Stirling County have improved beyond measure. Unbeaten in the Scottish League first division and thus favourites to win the title this season, they presented a threat even without their three internationals. Yet such is Northampton's strength in depth and such is the air of confidence instilled by the arrival of Ian McGeechan that a makeshift team proved too heavy on the set pieces for the Scots.

Stirling County resembled Scottish rugby down the years. They could not match Northampton in weight or size and so the scrums and lineouts were difficult areas.

They conceded one penalty try after a scrum on their own line and only narrowly defended at scrums in similar positions on other occasions.

In loose play, on the other hand, they were very lively. Martin McGeechan scored two tries, the first after the ball had passed through at least

eight pairs of hands. Northampton led 17-8 at half-time and then turned to face a nasty squall. McGeechan's second try pulled Stirling within three points and started a passage of play that was the heart of the game. For nearly 40 minutes, Stirling tried all they knew, using the wind well, but nobody could score.

The siege was lifted with an extraordinary piece of good fortune. McKenzie got the ball behind his line and looked as though he would put in a relieving kick. However, the ball hit the crossbar, rebounded back and MacNaughton dived on it for the softest of tries. Beal converted.

As if this was not bad enough, two minutes later Stirling were attacking when Packman intercepted in his own 22. He had not got the pace to reach the other end but, luckily for him, Beal was near at hand to take the ball and, just over halfway, Thornycroft got it and raced in to score. Beal converted and Northampton had scored 14 points in four minutes at the end of the game that gave the scoreline an unfairly lopsided appearance.

SCORERS: Northampton: Tries: Sealy, MacNaughton, Thornycroft, penalty try; Conversion: Beal (4). PENALTY GOALS: Beal (3). Stirling: Tries: McGeechan (2). Conversion: McGeechan. PENALTY GOALS: McGeechan.

NORTHAMPTON: N. Beal, F. Packman, N. Law, R. MacNaughton, R. Thornycroft, A. Hughes, S. Taylor, M. Hyman, P. Rowntree, M. Lewis, S. Foster, J. Phillips, G. Webster, J. Cassell, G. Sealy.

STIRLING COUNTY: S. Williamson, G. Turner, C. Bingham, M. McGeechan, R. Miller, M. McIlroy, A. Robertson, J. Gibson, G. Funnell, A. Robertson, O. MacKay, S. Hamilton, M. Norris, A. Ireland, G. Flockhart.

REFEREE: G. Ashton Jones (East Midlands).

## Neath show capacity for a scrap

Pontypool.....8  
Neath.....19

By GERALD DAVIES

THIS victory for Neath moves them from fifth position to third, behind Cardiff and Pontypool, in the Heineken League. They may be four points adrift of Pontypool, but they have the capacity to cause a few embarrassments before the season's end. Cardiff visit them on Saturday, and they are rarely comfortable at The Gwaun.

This result should be of a different concern to Pontypool. With only three successes in the Heineken campaign this season, they are struggling, with Newport, at the foot of the division.

This was a fixture where they might have harboured some hopes of victory. As they

look to their remaining matches, they will find little comfort. Difficulties on the field may be exacerbated by a division or two off it. Mark King, their stand-off half and captain, who is thought to have left the club, has returned. Not everyone agrees with such comings and goings and such uncertainty can cause only inconsistency when they need cohesion and a wholehearted effort.

Relegation looms. It did so last year, too, but then there was, as they say, total commitment to a cause.

There was commitment by the players here, but with the clerk of the weather in dismal mood, the playing conditions were not conducive to anything other than an unrelenting battle at forward. If it was unpromising to begin with, the conditions deteriorated throughout.

The rain pelted down, water surfaced on the pitch. To make matters worse, the wind failed to make up its mind which way to blow, favouring one side one moment, the other the next. The bitter wind was such that Neath retired to the dressing room at half-time while colourful umbrellas on the open banks turned inside out. Fity the players, then.

Pontypool began well by scoring a try in the second minute. A crafty kick to the corner by Ring, a clean catch at the lineout by Mruk and Bilien charged his way over for the score. But the home team failed to build on this.

Transgressions by them ensured a penalty count going against them by ten to four in the first half with McCarthy, home from his success with Cambridge University, landing two, which gave his side the advantage.

Ring's dropped goal, however, gave the visitors the lead by half-time, but it lasted only until the second minute of the second half, when McCarthy kicked his third penalty goal.

As the conditions grew bleaker and more difficult to master, Andrew Thomas charged over for a try from which Pontypool were unlikely to recover. It was a sign for umbrellas to make their hasty exit. John Davies, emerging from somewhere in the murk, sealed the home side's fate with a try in the dying minutes.

SCORERS: Pontypool: Try: Bilien. Dropped goal: Ring. Neath: Tries: Thomas, J. Davies, Penalty goals: McCarthy (3).

PONTYPPOOL: P. Armstrong, P. Taylor, L. Jones, M. Taylor, S. Taylor, M. Ring, M. Davies, S. Hale, G. Thomas, O. McCarthy, C. Bilien, L. Mruk, K. Stewart, G. Taylor, L. Isaac.

NEATH: P. Thomas, R. Jones, J. Davies, J. Leighton, S. Parker, C. Chalmers, A. Rees, J. Cornwell, S. Scott, O. Lunn, A. Kerr, R. Brown, E. Simpson, S. Aiken, G. Wier, G. A. M. Dods, M. Morgan, C. Townsend, G. Bayley, C. Dalgleish, O. Townsend, G. Funnell, G. Isaac, I. Corcoran, A. Johnson, M. Belderson, R. Hogg, G. Pugh, J. Ames, T. Wier. Townsend replaced by O. Chalmers, 52 min.

REFEREE: P. Sorka (Ystradgynlais).

## Bristol fashion back row mastery

Bristol.....19  
Newport.....5

By PETER BILLS

CHRISTMAS is the manifestation of tradition, and rugby at yuletide is no exception. An old-fashioned Anglo-Welsh fixture, played in lashing rain driven in on a cold strong wind from the Bristol Channel, seemed appropriate for the time of year. There were even a couple of traditional punch-ups: nothing very serious, but all part of the scene.

The heavy pitch did its spiteful best to upset most creative intentions. Mistakes inevitably were frequent on a muddy, slippery surface, yet both sides did enough to provide no small degree of entertainment.

Both were well below full strength, but the object of the exercise, for Newport, will have been to assess some likely first-team candidates for the second half of the season. With relegation gloomily threatening, it was at least reassuring for Newport folk to see the Gareth Rees, the Canada stand-off half, back in a club shirt.

Rees was much below his best, failing with three penalty goal attempts in the opening 16 minutes, but if Newport are to escape the relegation nightmare they fear, then Rees will surely be a key performer in the final months of the season.

Bristol's first choice pack is one of the finest in England and they clearly have some back-up for the seniors. Pat-

ten, who is a first XV player of renown, understandably excelled, although others worked as hard. Bristol's pack drove the ball strongly. Behind them, Edmonds, whose penalty goal into the wind after four minutes gave Bristol early encouragement, kicked astutely. The two penalty goals he landed downwind in the second half helped Bristol exchange an interval deficit for a 9-5 lead before two tries settled it.

Patten scored the first, after 57 minutes, driving through Yendle for the try after Matthews and Down had explored the blind side. Fifteen minutes later, Edmonds dummed to drop at goal, nipped down the short side and Crossland sent Watkins over.

Given the workrate of the Bristol back row, it was appropriate that both their tries came from this department, although Atkins did many good things at No 8 for Newport.

Newport made too many errors to prosper, but Atkins made a try for Parfitt in the first half with a pick up at the base of the scrum. But they were always slightly second best up front: on such a day, that was crucial.

SCORERS: Bristol: Tries: Patten, Watkins. Penalty goals: Edmonds (3). Newport: Try: Parfitt.

BRISTOL: O. Bennett, S. Crossland, N. Matthews, N. Smith, A. Williams, N. Edmonds, M. Crossland, P. Smith, A. Lathrop, K. Fulmer, J. Patten, P. Adams, S. Barclay, J. Watkins, C. Barrow. Bennett replaced by A. Down (40 min).

NEWPORT: M. Yendle, M. Jones, O. Hughes, J. Lowrey, M. Llewellyn, G. Rees, J. Parfitt, M. Rogers, T. Rodgers, S. Kinn, O. Roberts, N. Jones, M. Westman, O. Gray, A. Adams. Parfitt replaced by A. Peacock (40).

REFEREE: C. Rees (Somerset).

## Busy Chalmers shows healthy appetite

Melrose.....18  
Gala.....15

By ALAN LORIMER

MELROSE, always a team to excel after the turn of the year, gave indications at the Greenyards yesterday that this season would be no exception by coming from behind to defeat Gala in a Bank of Scotland Border League match.

As well as the renewal of local rivalry, the game was as much about the clash between the two Scotland stand-offs,

Craig Chalmers and Gregor Townsend. It was only Townsend's second game since returning from the injury that has kept him out for virtually all of this season. But he showed sharpness, an appetite for tackling and a penchant for the inventive that so characterised his rise to the top. Understandably, Chalmers was not at his best, having played a hard game for South against Glasgow on Saturday. Even so, he still provided the generalship and composure required to guide his team to victory.

There were glimpses of the

pace of Craig Joiner, the Melrose man tipped by many to be Scotland's right wing this season. Equally impressive was Chris Dalgleish on the left, who also looks the kind of speedy player that Scotland need.

Derek Bain scored a crucial try for Melrose in the first period, following a break by Scott Aitken, to help his side to a 13-3 half-time lead, the other points coming from the boot of Gary Parker.

Michael Dods steadily kicked Gala back into the game and when Townsend dropped a goal, they were

briefly in the lead. Melrose, however, illustrated their competitive qualities with a series of driving assaults, following one of which Robbie Brown emerged from a pile of bodies to claim the winning try.

SCORERS: Melrose: Tries: Bain, Brown. Conversion: Parker. Penalty goal: Parker. Dropped goal: Parker. Gala: Penalty goals: Dods (4). Dropped goal: Townsend.

MELROSE: O. Bain, C. Joiner, J. Sheel, I. Leighton, S. Parker, C. Chalmers, A. Rees, J. Cornwell, S. Scott, O. Lunn, A. Kerr, R. Brown, E. Simpson, S. Aiken, G. Wier, G. A. M. Dods, M. Morgan, C. Townsend, G. Bayley, C. Dalgleish, O. Townsend, G. Funnell, G. Isaac, I. Corcoran, A. Johnson, M. Belderson, R. Hogg, G. Pugh, J. Ames, T. Wier. Townsend replaced by O. Chalmers, 52 min.

REFEREE: C. Murr (Langholm).

## Leicester see cloud on horizon for Barbarians game

By DAVID HANDS

SINCE 1909, Leicester and the Barbarians have joined in annual combat over Christmas or, if the weather has intervened, later in the season. They meet again at Welford Road today for the 77th time but a shadow falls across a traditional fixture which, hitherto, has looked as strong as any.

Next season, the Rugby Football Union has designated December 30 as a league Saturday and Leicester's understanding is that this is not likely to change thereafter. Therefore, the tigers will be forced to consider which of two adjacent games is more

significant for them, the feast against as many celebrities as the Barbarians can draw together at holiday time or the relentless quest for league crumbs.

A quick poll of the club's players suggests that they place as high a premium on the Baa-baas game as any. Down the years, before league rugby, the fixture was the high point of their calendar and Leicester players regarded it as a signal honour to appear against a swath of international players — the only time that many of them were likely to do so.

That sentiment remains, even though half the present Leicester XV have won hon-

ours of one kind or another with England.

To sustain it, however, the Barbarians for their part must ensure as attractive a team as possible, even if it means bringing players from overseas, as they have in past years, from France and even Australia. To that end, Leicester would be prepared to help underwrite their expenses in acknowledgement of the value of their long association.

Today, the Barbarians mixture is less exotic than has sometimes been the case, a modest helping of seven internationals against a Leicester side which has seen little action during the hiatus in league fixtures, two of their scheduled games in that period having been cancelled.

Nick Beal, the England A utility back, has been withdrawn from the Barbarians at

the request of Ian McGeechan, his director of rugby at Northampton. McGeechan is keen to develop Beal as a full back and wanted to see him play there against Stirling County yesterday; he is replaced by Cameron Glasgow, of Heriot's FP and Scotland A, who is likely to play on the wing with Damian Hopley moving to centre.

Sadly, the anticipated contest between Simon Shaw, the Bristol lock, and Martin Johnson — both of whom travel with England to Lanzarote on Thursday — will not materialise. Johnson has withdrawn from the Leicester pack with a sore shoulder.

Another guest team receives

an airing today, though in a more melancholy cause. Crawshaw's Welsh play Newbridge in a match to commemorate Steve Realey, the Newbridge and Wales A scrum half, who died in a work accident last September. It speaks well of such players as the Llewellyn brothers, from Neath, and Garin Jenkins that, alongside international commitments, they have agreed to join in the tribute to a fine player.

□ The Chanoleslor, Kenneth Clarke, saw referee Nick Lacey short-change Rugby in their 27-18 defeat at Moseley yesterday. The official blew for time nine minutes early after his watch went wrong.

LEICESTER: W. Kilduff, S. Mackenzie, S. Potter, O. Edwards, R. Underwood, N. Melrose, J. Henderson, G. Rowntree, M. Cook, O. Gentry, C. Tait, M. Johnson, T. Smith, N. Beal, D. Richards.

BARBARIANS: J. Cadden (Bath and England), C. Glasgow (Preston F.P.), O. Hopley (Worcester), M. Taylor (Pontypool and Wales), K. Logan (Stirling County and Scotland), C. Chalmers (Melrose and Scotland), R. Howley (Edinburgh), R. Evans (Llanelli and Wales), G. Deane (Bath and England), P. Burnell (London Scottish and Scotland), S. Preece (Bath), S. Sheel (Bristol), A. Blackmore (Bristol), O. Evans (Bristol), G. Morrison-Bishop (Newport).

REFEREE: E. Morrison (Bristol).

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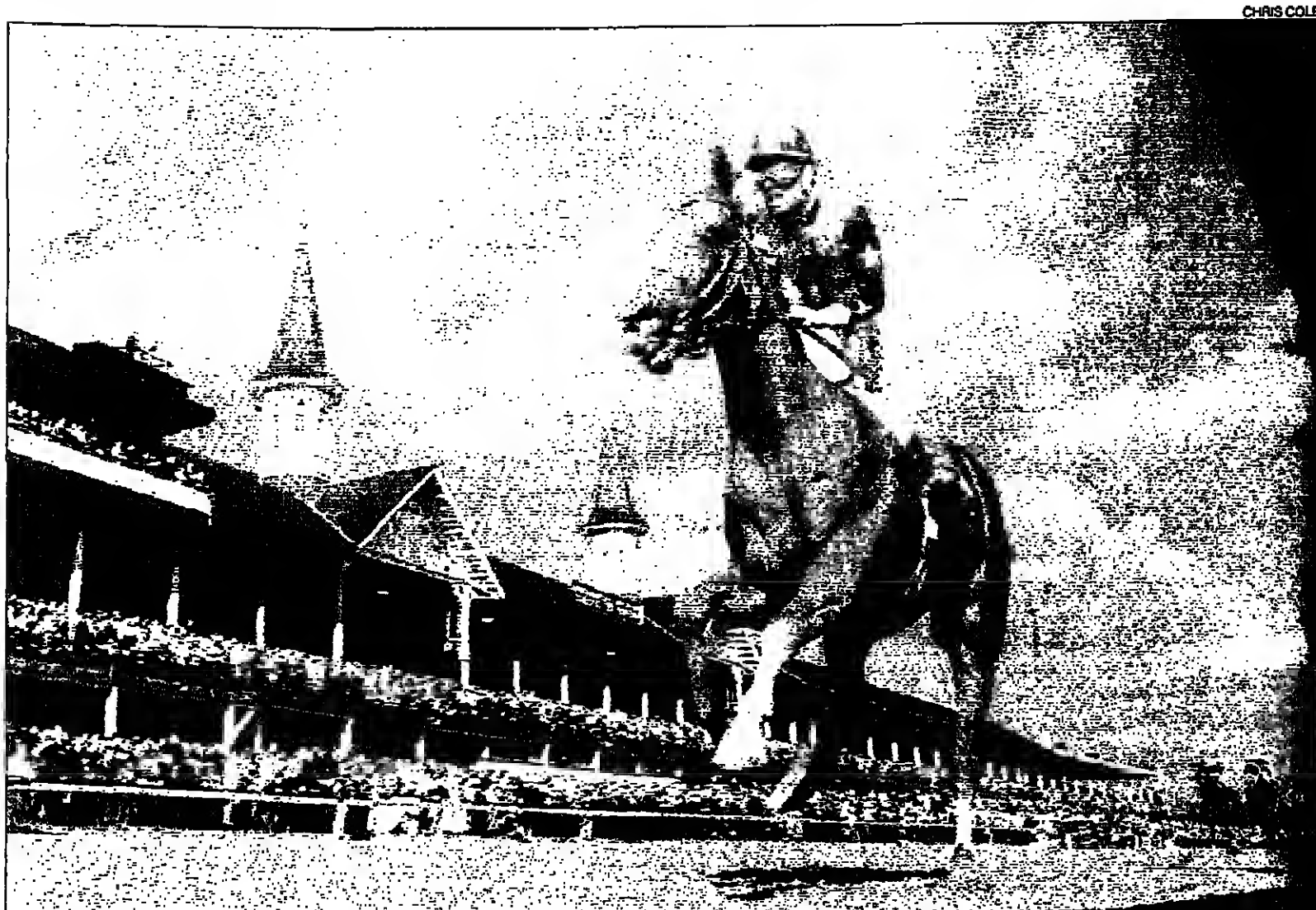
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Arazi, ridden by Pat Valenzuela, gave the French a spectacular success in the 1991 Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Churchill Downs in Kentucky

## Europeans plan Cup alternative

Advocates of a European Breeders' Cup series in the United States are to press ahead with the project after it emerged last week that the financial burden on European entrants in the Breeders' Cup is to increase alarmingly. This development all but negates wide-scale European participation in the annual \$10 million jamboree.

Proposals for a European Breeders' Cup have won the support of the European Breeders' Fund (EBF), which has pledged £1 million towards the first running of the event, scheduled for Germany in the late summer of 1996.

Other sources of revenue are to be sought from racecourses, European racing authorities, television rights, commercial sponsorship and simulcasts of the day for betting purposes.

The initiative comes largely from France. Together with Germany, the French representatives on the EBF initially opposed the Breeders' Cup deal. Eventually, however, the

fee increase, favoured by the British and Irish, was sanctioned in exchange for the £1 million commitment towards a European Breeders' Cup.

The idea is to package together five group one races and two valuable handicaps to revolve around participating countries.

The concept is not new, but the French are adamant that the majority of owners based in their country will not, now, contest Breeders' Cup races. They argue that the plethora of American turf races outside the Breeders' Cup series will make more attractive targets. Instead, they want Europe to embrace a high-profile day of its own.

It would be foolish for European Breeders' Day to be established in direct competition to the Breeders' Cup. Thankfully, that is not the intention, although the hurdles in its path are formidable.

Much will depend on the willingness of all European racing nations to embrace the plan, which will require the unanimous agreement of the European Pattern Race Committee. The committee

will certainly not sanction the creation of five new group one races: nor will it allow established races to be culled from member countries. Quite how these obstacles can be overcome is hard to perceive.

The concept of a European Breeders' Day is laudable and should be encouraged. The

European Breeders' Day will fall far from the commitment of Britain and Ireland.

Of course, any proposed European Breeders' Day will fall far from the commitment of Britain and Ireland. But there is a great deal more at stake than that. Although the European Pattern Race Committee urgently needs to overhaul the Pattern system, which offers a co-ordinated programme to test the best racehorses, the Pattern has largely succeeded in sustaining a precious unity among European nations. Any splintering of the committee would be deeply damaging.

A difference of opinion in the Pattern Committee ranks would merely reflect the present divisions within the EBF: the same countries are represented on both organisations.

In the 12 years of its existence, the EBF has been a boon to European racing. Essentially developed by the British, it has generated millions in race sponsorship in

addition to securing European Breeders' Cup participation at hugely favourable entry fees. This latter aspect, now the root of the EBF's dilemma, illustrates that success brings its own problems.

Does the EBF abandon its policy of funding up to 80 per cent of all two-year-old maiden races, which makes it imperative for all horses to register with the fund? Or does it pursue the theme of the European Breeders' Day, a concept aimed at grabbing headlines for the sport? A grand day would certainly attract more attention than the low-value, blanket support provided by the present policy of the EBF.

It is the preferable option, particularly as European racing has seen nothing along such lines since the development of the Arc weekend some ten years ago. Either way, the EBF is clearly at a crossroads. That it has been of great benefit to European racing is beyond argument, but the time is ripe for those involved to unite behind the concept of a banner race-day for Europe.



Julian Muscat

Racing commentary

last five years have been bereft of any significant developments on the racing front. Europe has its established racing festivals, like Royal Ascot and the weekends of the Irish Derby and the Arc. Yet these occasions lack an im-

### RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TEN BAR HOLIDAY MEETINGS

#### Kempton Park

12.45 (2m) 1. WHO IS EQUANIME (M. A. Fitzgerald, 20-1), 2. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 3. High Low (D. Merson, 10-1), 4. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 5. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 6. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 7. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 8. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 9. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 10. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 11. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 12. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 13. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 14. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 15. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 16. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 17. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 18. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 19. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 20. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 21. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 22. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 23. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 24. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 25. Hawk Occurrence (D. Merson, 10-1), 26. 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# Headwinds put brake on Hobart hopefuls

By BARRY PICKTHALL

WITH spinners pulling, a record fleet of 370 yachts made a spectacular sight sprinting across Sydney Harbour yesterday at the start of the fifth running of the 619-mile Sydney-to-Hobart classic.

The conditions were ideally suited to the former Whitbread Round the World Race ketch, *New Zealand Endeavour*. Racing under her new name, *Tasmania*, she led the fleet out alongside the smaller Australian maxi, *Hammer of Queensland*.

Once out at sea, however, the moderate southerly headwinds gave an edge to George Snow's new 75ft maxi, *Brindabella*, which blasted down the New South Wales coast at more than ten knots to stretch out a mile lead over a British entry, *Longoboda*.

*Tasmania*, which was never designed for upwind sailing slipped to fourth, but last night as the wind eased round to the east, the former Whitbread winner was back in the hunt, running with sheets eased just 300 yards behind *Longoboda*.

Surprisingly, there were few reported casualties as the fleet, which is twice the size of any previous race number, closed up in the exit channel to the harbour. Several protest flags were hoisted, and at least one yacht performed a penalty 360-degree turn — not an easy manoeuvre in such a large fleet — but damage was limited to one reported collision and the dismasting of Hugh Lewes's Hobart-based entry, *Gordon River Cruisers*, which lost her rig overboard off Coogee, 90 minutes after the start.

The headwinds, which were not predicted to fill in until today, have slowed the fleet and will now make it harder for the leaders to challenge the race record set by Jim Kilroy's *Kialoa* 3 back in 1975, the last year the fleet enjoyed sleigh-ride conditions all the way to Hobart.

Another skipper heading for Tasmania is the American BOC Challenge solo yachtsman, Arnet Taylor. He reported overnight that his 60ft yacht *Thursday's Child*, which lost its rudder within a week of leaving Cape Town on the second stage of this race around the world, lost its emergency steering during the height of another gale yesterday.

His initial goal was to head for Melbourne to fit a new rudder, but later he told race organisers, "Hobart looks better. I am confident that I can wander down there steering with sails alone."

Still more than 1,000 miles from the Sydney finish line, Arnet is likely to be overtaken by Isabelle Autissier, the French yachtswoman dismasted on December 2, who has been making remarkable progress since limping into the Kerguelen Islands to step a replacement cruising rig shipped out to her from Reunion Island.

After a series of 200-mile days, Autissier, who had led the fleet by a wide margin before calamity struck, is now within 1,500 miles of the finish and due to reach Sydney in plenty of time to step a new racing mast and rejoin the race for the third stage around Cape Horn.

Others also making steady progress include the British quartet, Niah Vaughan presently in fourth place within class 2, Cornishman Robin Davie, Nigel Rowe and Harry Mitchell, the 70-year-old pensioner with 3,000 miles still to cover.

Davie, whose 40ft yacht *Cornwall* is one of the smallest in the fleet, has made commendable progress in pulling more than 350 miles ahead of Rowe's much larger yacht, *Sky Catcher*, which has followed a more northerly route to the main fleet.

Results, page 24

# Lancashire take honours as Cheshire fall short



Justin Pidcock, the Cheshire forward, avoids a lunging tackle from a Lancashire defender at Preston in the annual Boxing Day encounter between the counties

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Lancashire | 1 |
| Cheshire   | 1 |

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

THE BOXING Day hockey match at Preston yesterday ended with Lancashire regaining the trophy after drawing with Cheshire in the senior match. Cheshire had needed a decisive victory to take overall honours after the veterans' match ended 3-3 and Lancashire had won the under-21 game 3-1.

Cheshire, represented mainly by players from the Neston and Brooklands clubs, looked stronger on paper with the Crutchley brothers, Robert, Sam and Andy in the team and their father, Peter, as manager. But neither side attained mastery under trying conditions, with rain falling almost throughout the proceedings. The floodlights were switched on at two o'clock, at the start of the match.

Cheshire had the better of the exchanges in the first half, Robert Crutchley giving them the lead

midway through when he flicked the ball into the net from a short corner. Lancashire came back strongly in the second half and Humphries equalised with a well-taken goal from open play. In the closing minutes Lancashire were deprived of a goal from a penalty stroke when Woods hit a post.

In the past, this match has been played as part of the county championship. But under the new format Lancashire and Cheshire cannot meet again unless they emerge winners of their respective pools.

**LANCASHIRE:** A Forster (Formby), N Sarphoe (Mossley), T Redwell (Warrington), O Cooke (Formby), A Farns (Scunthorpe), S Mather (Northwich), O Robins (St Anne's), S Humphries (Southport), J Bell (Formby), G Dickson (Warrington), J Woods (Dorchester), Substitute used: S Storey (Formby).  
**CHESHIRE:** C Ashcroft (Mossley), P Edwards (Carnock), R Yeats (Brooklands), O Fox (Brooklands), S Crutchley (Preston), captain, A Crutchley (Mossley), R Crutchley (Preston), J Pidcock (Carnock), A Aldred (Brooklands), D Cheshire (Mossley), A Turnbull (Mossley), Substitute used: S Storey (Formby), A Bradshaw (Mossley), R Wainwright (Oxton), Dimples: G Nash and H Janson (Northern Cumbria).

James Molloy, the scorer of seven goals in as many matches for Surliton, the national league leader,

is the key forward in the President's XI to play Cheshire in the annual Dick Hollands memorial match at Chesham today. With two other Surliton players in the side, Miles and Justesen, supported by two Richmond players, Marchant and Elmet, the Chesham president, Tony Bennett, is confident that his team will maintain its long run of successes.

**PRESIDENT'S XI:** M Miles (Surliton), O Justesen (Surliton), R Elmet (Richmond), W Davies (Warrington), I Pinks (Sevenside), P Mulligan (Old Walscourians), N Pinks (Chesham), J Molloy (Surliton), G Marchant (Richmond), M Aldred (Epsom), R Hallett (Old Walscourians).

# South Africans build on Jack's first impression

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SOUTH AFRICA'S bowlers needed little time to put New Zealand in trouble on the opening day of the second Test match at the Kingsmead ground in Durban yesterday, bad light ending play at tea with the touring team 130 for eight. Although the day represented a good bowling performance from South Africa — who lost the first Test — there was also some poor batting as three New Zealanders perished to hook or pull shots.

Steven Jack marked his Test debut with two wickets and a catch as South Africa's seam bowlers took command, Fanie de Villiers taking three for 51 and Brian McMillan three for 35. Jack's two for 14 in 10 overs included the crucial wicket of Martin Crowe and Ken Rutherford, the New Zealand captain, was left to rue his decision to bat first after winning the toss.

Although the skies were darkening slightly, conditions were not dangerous to the batsmen when Cyril Mitchell and Khizar Hayat, the umpires, took the players off two minutes before the tea interval. The light did not deteriorate, nor did it improve, and the last session was lost.

New Zealand quickly ran into trouble, losing their first two wickets for 19, but had recovered to 56 for two at lunch with Darrin Murray and Crowe building a slow but solid third-wicket stand that ultimately added 43.

The collapse began off the last ball of the second over after lunch, when Crowe, three runs short of equalising John Wright's New Zealand record of 5,334 in Tests, mis-hit a short ball from Jack to de Villiers at long-leg. It was Jack's second wicket, his Test career had got off to an excellent start when he bowled Bryan Young and took the catch at long-leg to remove Steven Fleming during the morning.

Once Crowe had departed, two more wickets went quickly. Rutherford fell without scoring when he attempted to pull de Villiers but scooped a catch to John Commins, the Boland captain who like Jack

was making his Test debut, at mid-wicket. Then Murray, who had batted for 160 minutes for 38, edged de Villiers to the wicketkeeper.

Having omitted both spinners, Clive Eksteen and Pat Symcox, Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, had to rotate his seamers and when McMillan replaced de Villiers he responded with a spell of three for 14 in five overs.

Adam Parore gave a catch to Gary Kirsten at short leg, Matthew Hart edged to Cronje in the gully and Simon Doull provided Richardson, the wicketkeeper, his second catch of the day. Shane Thomson was the only New Zealand batsman to take on the bowlers successfully. He hit nine fours and one six, including 26 runs off two overs from de Villiers, as he reached 53 not out from 54 balls.

Danny Morrison, the fast bowler, replaced the injured Dion Nash for New Zealand while Chris Pringle came in for Richard de Groen. Since New Zealand recorded a memorable 137-run win in the first match of the three-Test series in Johannesburg last month, they have suffered from poor form and a lack of preparation.

Hilton Ackerman, the Western Province batsman, scored 118 out of a total of 330 for six against a weakened Pakistani attack on the first day of a four-day match in Cape Town yesterday.

# King's strike blow for English pride

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In recent times, touring teams visiting Australia have left bruised, battered and often beaten. If it is not by the teams themselves, it is as likely to be from the belligerent sporting psyche of the Australian press and public.

Not so, however, for the cricketers of King's College, Taunton, who returned from Australia for Christmas bronzed and beaming, having lost a couple of matches, won many more, and, in cricketing

provided invaluable experience for the King's squad, eight of whom play representative cricket; among them are Sam Diment, 17, who has already played for Somerset second XI, Nick Boulton, a Transvaal junior, and Gavin Armstrong, 15, grandson of the former West Indies batsman, Roy Marshall.

The format of the matches was limited overs, rarely played in English schools, and the tour was launched with a "return" fixture against the Western Australian schools champions, Wesley College, who plundered 381-4 off 50 overs, with Ben Hollis, the brother of the Surrey all-rounder Adam, reaching 62, retiring, and then restricting King's to 191-6 with a style of bowling not unlike that of his big brother.

Wesley College's ground in Perth with its flat, fast pitch and outfield was a rude awakening for King's. Four days earlier, they had been battling through their last rugby match of the season against Clifton College in mud and drizzle.

A visit to the Waca, for a day/night match between Western Australia and Queensland whetted the appetite. "Western Australia were phenomenal in the field," Ray Codd, the former Rosslyn Park and Barbarians full back, who has been a master at the school for 12 years, said. "The commitment, teamwork and determination seemed streets ahead of county cricket. Somehow the athleticism of all 11 players was mesmerising. The display certainly inspired the Taunton tourists who won

five of their eight one-day matches.

They were hosted in Perth by Hale, whose headmaster is the former Australian cricketer, John Inverarity, whose dogged, strokeless defence, and hours at the crease, once prompted E.W. Swanton to rename him Inforeverity. The cricketing connections continued, while playing Guildford Grammar School, Perth, when they discovered that the headmaster was the father of Tom Moody, the Worcestershire and Western Australia all-rounder.

Yet King's College has its own cricketing heritage: Roger Twose, of Warwickshire and

Richard Harden, of Somerset, are former pupils.

Richard Yeates, master in charge of the first XI, saw a different approach in Australia. "Being arrogant and having self-esteem on the field is not seen as a problem. They clearly teach these things to their players. Off the field, they were marvellous hosts. But they are mentally harder. This is because sport is revered. It is a totally recognised means of occupying kids. Cricket and cricketers are everywhere, on TV, in adverts, posters, billboards, simply everywhere."

Dennis Breakwell, the former Northamptonshire and

Somerset slow left-arm bowler, who is the head groundsman and coach at the school, was impressed by the structure and government backing for cricket development, but believes that, certainly at schoolboy level, there is very little difference in ability.

"What I would love to see is limited-overs cricket played in schools in this country. Many of the touring sides who visit our school play limited-overs cricket, and running between the wickets, tighter fielding from the start, and greater variation of bowlers is all instantly recognisable," said Breakwell.

"In Australia, seven or eight schools will play a round robin limited overs tournament at the centre of their season. In Perth, some schools play Friday-Saturday, while in Sydney they play over two Saturdays. School matches have increased from 50 to 100 overs, which gives them a greater concentration span."

Both the schoolboys and teachers believe adopting a similar system in England could prove highly beneficial. "Playing limited overs cricket as opposed to declaration would hopefully lead to faster, truer wickets over here, schoolboys learning to play better off the back foot, and set up a stronger competitive atmosphere," Yeates said.

"We'd like to choose eight or so fixtures with other schools who have opponents in common and set up a league. It would make the season far more stimulating."

To a man, the tour party agreed.



King's boys Bostock, left, and Lamey return triumphant

A STORY IS TOLD of Donald, a revered ghillie in years gone by on a certain loch of our acquaintance. It was a bad morning for trout, the water a glassy calm.

Donald tolled all morning at the oars while his cargo of two London businessmen caught nothing.

As lunchtime neared, Donald began to look forward to the lustrous sherry-gold depths of The Macallan Malt Whisky which was the customary reward for a deserving ghillie. But the otiose Sassenachs had other ideas.

"No fish, Donald," they cried. "Then no whisky!" Donald said nothing, and ate his lunch at some remove.

# Nae Macallan... Nae fish...



But the iron had entered his soul. The wind rose. And all afternoon while every other boat on the loch was landing an almost miraculous draught of trout, Donald rowed his clients slowly up and down the one unruffled stretch of water.

When evening came, he deposited his fishless clients on the bank, and surveyed them gravely as they rifled through their treasures of insult, goggling like the trout they had so signally failed to capture.

"Nae Macallan," said Donald at last.

"Nae fish!" And rowed off into the gloaming.

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## DANCE page 27

Return of the perennial  
Nutcracker: Londoners  
are spoilt for choice with  
two fine productions

## ARTS

## TOMORROW

Film director Louis Malle  
talks about Chekhov,  
Mamet — and his  
own stormy past



# The man who knew too much

When the Master sent for John Russell Taylor, the former *Times* film critic expected the worst

Meeting celebrities is one thing, getting to know them is quite another. I was reflecting on this in December 1975, while lunching with Alfred Hitchcock in his studio dining room, as had been my wont, every week or so, for the previous three years.

I was preparing to go off for my afternoon class at the University of Southern California when Hitchcock observed, very deadpan: "Oh, do you have to go? I was just going — but then, perhaps you wouldn't be interested — to suggest you might like to see the first print of the new movie, *Family Plot*, we're calling it now. It's not quite finished, but I thought it might amuse you..."

As I phoned the university to say that I was unavoidably detained, I compared this very personal screening with the way I had got to see Hitch's previous film, *Frenzy*, and how nearly disastrous that had been. It all started when my friend Fred heard I was going to spend a month in Hollywood at the beginning of 1972. Fred was in the habit of taking films, difficult to obtain in America, to his Hollywood friends. He knew that I was interested in art nouveau, and thought it would be interesting for me if I took a special kind of mustard from him to the producer Jennings Lang, who had a great collection of Mucha originals I would surely like to see. Lang was subsequently to find fame as the producer of *Alfred Hitchcock*, but at this time, more interestingly, he was best known as the recipient of a bullet from fellow producer Walter Wanger in a famous parking-lot fracas over Wanger's then wife Joan Bennett.

This did not seem to be quite a tactful subject of conversation, but Mucha was all right, so when I arrived in LA I called Lang and was invited to go round for drinks the following evening. An hour later his secretary called back and

The day I met...

ALFRED HITCHCOCK

asked whether I like to make it that very evening; he was screening the new Hitchcock film, *Frenzy* — then three or four months away from release — and thought I might like to see it. Wouldn't I just! When this all happened, I should say, I had met Hitchcock a couple of times, as film

“The chance of stealing a march on the world was irresistible”

critic of *The Times*, and had lurked on the sidelines during quite a bit of the London shooting of *Frenzy*. So the chance of stealing a march on the world was irresistible.

I duly arrived that evening at Lang's house, carrying Fred's mustard, Lang was amiable enough, but somewhat distracted, with, I felt, half an eye on the clock. Eventually he said: "Fred tells me you are interested in Mucha. Perhaps you'd like to take a quick look at my collection. Very quick, I'm afraid, because I'm running a movie for guests at seven." I said, rather pointedly: "Yes, I know. That's what you asked me to come for."

Anyway, we chatted as we looked at his pictures, and he said: "Well, stay for another drink. Maybe Robert De Niro will not turn up after all, and then I can certainly show you the movie." And, in the end, I got to see *Frenzy*, just about

the first kid on any block to do so.

Of course I loved it, and told Lang. He was apparently silly enough to confess what he had done to Hitchcock, urging my high opinion of the film in compensation. The result was that Hitch was furious with him for showing it to the critic of an important paper, and never spoke to him again.

But how did that leave him feeling about me? Come the next Cannes Festival I was to find out. *Frenzy* was receiving its world premiere there. A couple of days before the festival screening I received a mysterious summons. Would I come to lunch with Mr Hitchcock at noon the following day?

When I arrived at his hotel he whisked me away immediately in a chauffeur-driven car, along the coast to a restaurant in the midst of some dreary *terrazza* vague, looking like a location for *The Postman Always Rings Twice*. The place was absolutely deserted, though obviously Hitch was well known there, and was made much of. Once we were seated Hitch turned to me and, in his most magisterial fashion, intoned: "I expect you're wondering why I wanted to see you quite privately like this."

A long, significant pause. "I wanted to talk to you about... your book *The Rise and Fall of the Wellmade Play*. It's an absolute classic. Whenever aspiring writers ask me about script construction I tell them to read it. Now, what I wanted to ask you was..."

I cannot remember what it was he wanted to ask me; something about Henry Arthur Jones, I think. But anyway, we sat there alone until 4.30pm chatting happily about the London theatre of his youth, about which, needless to say, his knowledge was encyclopaedic and his enthusiasm profound. And never a word about *Frenzy*, let alone Lang and his faux pas. I suppose I had passed some kind of test.



Alfred Hitchcock invited John Russell Taylor to see No 53 in his long line of films — after No 52 had led to trouble

## CONCERT

## Terror vision

THE hopes and fears of all the years — and a certain atavistic sense of primitive terror besides — met in the Danish National Radio Choir's London concert. It was somewhat deceptively called "Christmas from Copenhagen": those hoping for sugared pastries and glowing yule-stars may have been in for a bit of a shock.

After the interval, it is true, there were five little Christmas songs and hymns in which this excellent choir showed how to make a Lutheran chorale into the finest of art-songs, each part light and mobile. And, as the four square yielded to six fitting quavers, the origins of the ballad in the *ballo*, or the dance, sprang wonderfully into mind.

But, with their rapidly expanding programme of recordings and tours, the choir was here to show its mettle. In a cunning and challenging first half the voices were heard

Danish NR Choir/  
Parkman  
St John's,  
Smith Square

in their true lights — and darknesses. The fine, transparent homogeneity of sound which draws this choir close to the classically Nordic Eric Ericson sound (its Swedish conductor, Stefan Parkman, trained with him) is just one small part of its sound palette. It was all but banished for Per Norgard's "Wie ein Kind", a piece that tellingly juxtaposes the springing gibberish of the schizophrenic Swiss writer Wolfli with a verse by Rilke.

Here, the earthiness of the Danish voices came to the fore; and so did the rich tapestry of fine cotton fibres, thicker woollen threads, bright silks and pastels that weave together as the visibly individual parts of a strongly unified whole, and give the choir its distinctive voice.

This spoke equally eloquently in another pairing of poems, which also balanced integration with disintegration, innocence with experience, until they coexisted. The Swedish composer Sven-David Sandström takes Blake's "Cradle Song" and "The Tyger", gradually overlaying the one with the other, as whispers of "Tyger tyger" disturb the slow-moving, close harmonies of the lullaby, and seem to speak of humanity's deepest unspoken fears.

Those fears rose up and shouted out in the choir's final tour de force, the "Curse upon Iron" by the Estonian composer Veljo Tormis. An epic invocation to and damnation of the destructive evil concealed in iron, it is half chanted, half sung in rhythms and fragments whose incantatory power owes much to the Finnish *Kalevala* epic; and it is accompanied by the hollow beat of a shaman's drum. It is only, Tormis seems to be saying, by reuniting with these ancient rhythms and eternal values that man and iron, both earth-born, will be able to exist side by side. Neither the message, nor the choir, will be quickly forgotten.

HILARY FINCH

## THEATRE FOR CHILDREN: Kate Bassett rounds up the best on offer in London

## Having a great Grimm time

For *Grimm Tales* (at the Young Vic), one of the best pieces of theatre around — and that's not just for children — Carol Ann Duffy has translated a handful of the Grimm Brothers' tales in an unsentimental way, with a keen awareness of their innate poetry. Tim Supple, assembling a concentrated team, directs with inspirational inventiveness as his actors slip between storytelling and playing all the parts.

Hansel and Gretel (an outstanding Dan Milne and Sarah C. Cameron) journey into the forest with their cruel mother simply by circling the stage in nightmarish slow motion, pushing aside a besom or a glinting knife held by stationary actors as if these are obstructing branches. Even the small children in the audience, their imaginations probably more open than adults' to make-believe, seem to have no trouble following such sophisticated stylisation.

The aesthetic is at once spartan and exquisitely beautiful. While "Hansel and Gretel" has a touch of Brecht's Poor Theatre, with its tin buckets for props, in the "Cinderella"

la story a shimmering gossamer dress floats down from the flies. In fact, each tale has its own style. The Golden Goose is a sort of orange velvet Ennui with a honky-tonk beat. As everybody gets stuck to its tail, the company zooms up and down the aisles with floppy life-size ragdolls tagging along.

Then there is the fable, with a scorching moral, played out by tiny wooden toys — the Mouse, the Bird and the Sausage — that are air-lifted around their mini-kitchen by Milne with the aid of a hook-and-pole. Living musicians accompany the action, playing ethnic instruments; sometimes singing Celtic-style, elsewhere drumming with African or Indian beats.

The show may not be for hypersensitive toddlers: there are some splendidly scary bits. Linda Kerr Scott does a fantastic wicked-witch

dance, a sort of cannibal horror movie stomp, in ghastly rubber gloves with great big nails attached. Aargh. I have already been to see it twice.

The Little Angel in Islington is a tiny national treasure. This pint-size marionette theatre for children, adjacent to the workshop where the puppets are carved, is virtually unchanged since it was lovingly converted from a derelict chapel in the 1960s.

Angelo, showing over Christmas, is the story of a family of tumblers and jugglers travelling round medieval Italy in their horse-drawn wagon. The troupe comes into view, trekking across the miniature stage — a gold-framed window in the wall — like marionettes in Cinemascope. The hand-and-rod puppets are based on drawings by Quentin

Blake, which beautifully combine the ethereal and the funny.

Angelo, our boy-hero in his Harlequin suit, treads the tightrope with whimsically long bendy legs. By contrast, Mama and Papa are round-bellied, ruddy peasants, and baby Sandro scoots about with a head smaller than a tennis ball and the rest of his body no bigger.

One can just about make out the puppeteers, all in black, working with dextrous intensity and delightful results, creating movements at once startlingly lifelike and amusingly defying such limits.

The piece would be better if the narrator, who keeps popping round the front, were a proper actor rather than a puppeteer, and the story thread is slightly thin. Angelo's role is not clearly central until he meets Angelina. She sees him from her high balcony and escapes in a

laundry basket, with his help, chased by her pointy-chinned uncle who has a high-on satanic ability literally to take off in pursuit.

But essentially, Angelo is a perfect excuse for impossible acrobatics. Benno and Beppo, Angelo's twin brothers, balance on the tips of each others' fingers and juggle mysteriously slow-moving cabbages that magically turn into whizzing trails of green smoke. Enchanting.

A seasonal but not enthralling show for the very young. Mr Rabbit Meets Brer Santa (at the Puppet Theatre Barge, W9), is a cluster of the African-American folk tales of Brer Rabbit. Mr Rabbit outwits Brother Fox, persuading Bear to take his place in Fox's basket; escaping from a well by enticing Fox to join him below in the other bucket; or wriggling out of

becoming Fox's Christmas dinner by talking Mouse into gnawing him out of a sack.

The animals are unpainted wooden string puppets, something like a cross-breed between an artist's jointed model of the human body and those modern African carvings of antelope and the like. Mr Rabbit has twitchable ears and floppy paws but the limbs of a man.

This staging's black influences, and anthropomorphic elements are enriching and humorous. The narrator, on tape, speaks with a deep mellifluous lilt. Fox slinks to a blues sax or, when vexed, jingles to jazz. Mr Rabbit has a "hang-loose" lisp about his legs-on-threads. However, the puppeteers do not truly pinpoint creatures' individual gait. Several children believed Brother Bear to be a cow, and I misclassified the unbridled, unbracing baby rabbits as dwarf jackals.

Still, the theatre barge, moored in scenic Little Venice, is a small snug adventure in itself. The tales celebrate mischief and (albeit none-too-altruistic) survival instincts. It is also not every day you see a fox sneaking around in a Santa outfit.

## ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

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## HAVING flourished for 25

years, irrespective of fashions and trends, the longest-lasting trio in rock are finally running out of steam. This was the last show of a worldwide tour that began soon after the release of their eleventh album, *Antenna*, in January. But instead of the jokey triumphalism that might have been expected, a palpable air of weariness hung about the band.

Frank Beard's drums were perched atop a giant imitation of a vintage American car dashboard. Guitarist Billy Gibbons and bass player Dusty Hill played the opening number, "World Of Swirl", alongside him, then descended to the stage.

There were flashes of the old magic early on, when they pushed off into a sequence of favourites beginning with "Waiting For The Bus" and its inevitable companion "Jesus Just Left Chicago". A rarely featured version of

## ROCK

## Bored to boogie

ZZ Top  
Wembley Arena

"Just Got Back From Baby's", from ZZ Top's *First Album*, was an unlikely highlight, a back-to-basics 12-bar, which underlined their ability as a blues band par excellence. Likewise Gibbons' solo at the end of "Rough Boy", against a simple, repeated sequence, provided a rare moment of delight.

But new songs such as "Fuzzbox Voodoo" and "Antenna Head" were mediocre at best, and compared with

previous outings the show was a distinctly low-budget operation. The lighting was unspectacular and there were none of the old theatrical stunts.

Instead, the visual element was supplied by six statuesque women, who disported themselves in a variety of minimalist costumes throughout the set. Clearly they had not been hired for their dancing abilities, and their clumsily graphic illustrations of songs such as "A Fool For Your Stockings" and "Legs" imported the seedy aesthetic of the strip club to the proceedings.

Even the concluding volley of hits — among them "Sharp Dressed Man", "Gimme All Your Lovin'" and a version of "Viva Las Vegas" which Hill could hardly be bothered to sing at all — could not dispel the impression of a band that has lost its golden touch.

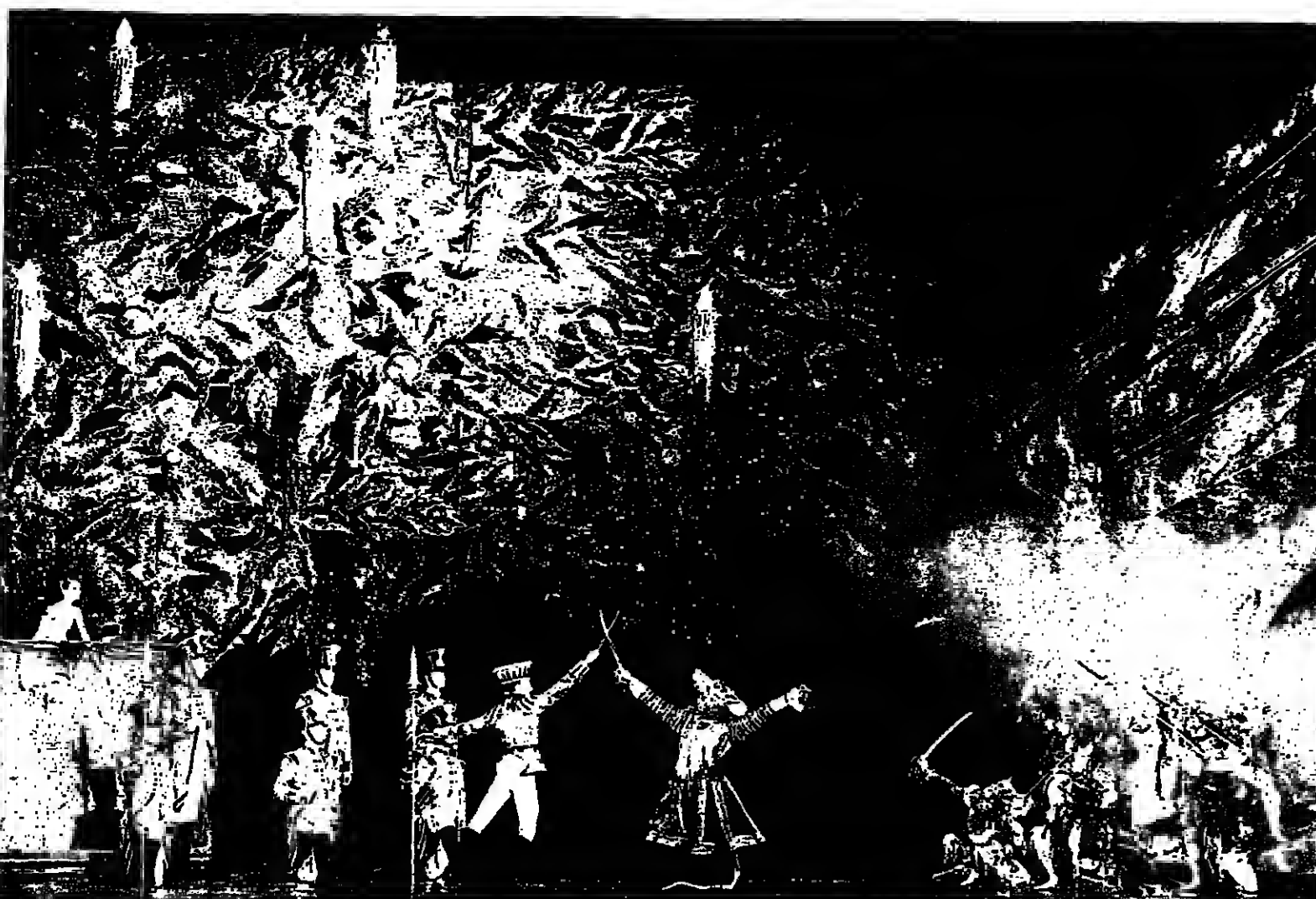
DAVID SINCLAIR



Dusty Hill of ZZ Top, 25 years in the business — and beginning to fray

هنا من الأصل





A Nutcracker to end all Nutcrackers: Birmingham Royal Ballet's superb production by Peter Wright is now on show at the London Coliseum

# Christmas feast for eye and ear

**DANCE:** London is offered a trio of major productions for the holiday season. Debra Craine reviews them all

If gongs were handed out for persistence, English National Ballet would long ago have claimed its medal for service to the nation. Its *Nutcracker* is a British dance tradition of remarkable longevity, the company having performed it annually at the Festival Hall for more than 40 years. At least three million people have seen it since 1952; already more than 250,000 have seen the current production by Ben Stevenson, which was premiered in 1991.

ENB's production owes its success in part to Stevenson's straightforward telling of E.T.A. Hoffmann's 1816 tale, *The Nutcracker*, and to the cosy settings of designer Desmond Heeley. Between them they have concocted an attractive, suitably seasonal *Nutcracker* which sparkles like a German Christmas card and fulfils our preconceived notions about children and Yuletide.

The carved oak drawing room of Act I — like a cuckoo clock writ large — welcomes us into the Stahlbaum household with its boisterous brood of gift-hungry youngsters and the beer-barrel bellies of grown-up family and friends. The Land of Snow, which follows, is a place where icicles glisten like diamonds on the wintry landscape. Act II's Kingdom of the Sweets, with its flying pastry cook angels and colourful bonbons, is a visual treat.

Stevenson's choreography services the storyline in a pedestrian manner. The ice dance routine for the Snow Queen and the Nutcracker Prince is more Torvill and Dean than Ivanov — and why not? — but the national dances of Act II lack the fluidity and logic of Tchaikovsky's score. Happily, Stevenson's version does give us the chance to see two ballerinas at work. American guest artist Susan Jaffe was the Snow Queen on Wednesday's opening night. She adorned her steely exterior strength with a velvety exterior finish in a performance that was accomplished, if a little remote. As the Sugar Plum Fairy, Agnes Oaks — ENB's resident leading ballerina — looked a little pained, but her old-fashioned interpretive decorum, especially in the expressive tilt of her head, was lovely. Partnering both women was Thomas Edur, a Nutcracker Prince of rare refinement whose unabashed courtliness served him well.

On Thursday night, at the Coliseum, Birmingham Royal Ballet presented the London premiere of Peter Wright's *Nutcracker*, surely one of the finest *Nutcrackers* to be seen anywhere. Birmingham's is an altogether grander, more aristocratic affair. The moment the curtain rises on Christmas at the Stahlbaums it becomes clear that we have climbed the social ladder. The jolly middle-class bonhomie of ENB's version here gives way to a well-mannered upper-class formality. These drawing room walls are lined in red silk; Mrs

crispy tangle of menacing vegetation; the giant fireplace spouts fire and smoke and life-sized rats. Clara inhabits a spellbinding, nightmare world where Drosselmeyer and his dolls reappear as fellow travellers in a journey through the darker reaches of a young girl's mind.

Wright's most important decision was to make Clara more grown-up, a ballet student on the threshold of sexual awakening. This allows him to cast an adult in the role — on opening night a superb Sandra Madgwick — and to create a more sophisticated choreography that accretes her budding womanhood. In the first scene, Madgwick flutters like a young girl just discovering the opposite sex; in the Land of Snow she plunged into a flowing current of movement with her Nutcracker Prince (a majestic and ardent performance from Covent Garden star Irek Mukhomedov) in the evening's best moment.

Act I takes Clara to a deserted hall of marble columns where Drosselmeyer (a charismatic Joseph Cypollà) conjures up a world of exotica and where Clara is transformed into the ballerina of her dreams, Miyako Yoshida. The grand pas de deux between Yoshida

## LONDON

**CHRISTMAS AT THE BARBICAN** BBC Children's TV presenter Simon Pegg hosts an afternoon fun for the children. **Teddy Bears' Picnic:** The London Concert Orchestra plays a selection of music including *The Pink Panther*, the cartoon and, of course, *Teddy Bears' Picnic*. Also featuring the special to the music of *The Emperor's New Clothes* and *The Ugly Duckling*. Special introductions by Peter Dinklage. Barbican, 200, Strand, EC2A 4PU. 121-121-6388. 10.30am-1.30pm. Tickets £3.50. 121-121-6388.

**SOUTH BANK FESTIVITIES** David Wood, a well-known face from BBC's *Playaway* and *Jackanory*, presents his own theatre show combining music, music and audience participation. **Parade Room**, South Bank, SE1 101-101-8822. 2.30pm. No part Dec 25-27 or Jan 2. Tickets £3.50.

**IN THE EVENING** The acclaimed Mozart Festival Orchestra offers: *Mozart in Costume*. The programme of Mozart's music, including *Don Giovanni*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Die Zauberflöte* and *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. Performed in elegant 18th-century dress. In the evening with *Don Giovanni* by Jack Byrner. Barbican, 200, Strand, EC2A 4PU. 121-121-6388. 7.30pm.

**THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE** Nigel Hawthorne amusing as the duped Lord Ogleby but his direction presides and diminishes the play. **Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1** 101-484 5041. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. 2.30pm. Dec 28, 2.30pm. Dec 29, 2pm.

**FLORA THE RED MENACE** Attractive staging of Kander & Ebb's first musical, a surprising story of an American girl living with communism. **Lucy Trooper** in the role created by Liza Minnelli. **Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond** 081-940 3631. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. 2.30pm. Sun. Dec 25-27 or Jan 2. Tickets £4.50.

**NEW ENGLAND** Richard Nelson looks at the English abroad, behaving just as Americans say we do. **Interlocking chairs and good acting led by Angela Thorne, David Burke and Nick Frost.** **Piccadilly Theatre, EC2 101-484 5041. 7.30pm.**

**OLIVER!** Lavish revival of Bart's merry musical. Low on social comment, big on tunes. **Jonathan Pryce as Fagin, Robert Iler as Oliver.** **Lyric Theatre, 101-484 5041. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. 2.30pm. Sun. Dec 25-27 or Jan 2. Tickets £3.50.**

**THE RIVALS** Richard Cottle's adaptable production from Chichester, with Patricia Routledge's splendidly wild Mrs. Lauchlin, and good acting led by Angela Thorne, David Burke and Nick Frost. **Piccadilly Theatre, EC2 101-484 5041. 7.30pm.**

**A SPANNER IN THE WORKS** Theatrical comedy presents a stranger to submit to a mock trial, with alarming results, in staging of

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Paul Haynes

performance recreates what is one of Rossini's best-loved operas. **Unit Jan 3** Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 101-101-8822. 7.15pm, mat. 2.15pm.

**ELSEWHERE**

**BIRMINGHAM** The two-piece Expresso Songs Orchestra, also known as the ESO, combines brass showmanship with influences as varied as swing, salsa, funk and ska in a joyful party that little until the new year. **Roseley, 200, Strand, EC2A 4PU. 121-121-6388. 7.30pm.**

**Also in Birmingham**, as we approach the 50th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War, the **Glenn Miller Orchestra** recreates the legend with a band of all-star musicians in their original arrangements. Performed in wartime US Air Force Band uniforms with Paul Archibald on trumpet. **Symphonietta Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham B2 121-212 3333. Tonight, 7.30pm.**

**In addition**, a new translation of *Richard III* opens tonight. A joyously inventive production, **Musical Theatre London's** acclaimed

**THEATRE CLIPPYD** A chance to see Dorothy and chums as they follow the Yellow Brick Road in the RSC version of

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

**House full, returns only**  
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**Durham's 1955** radio play. A bit old-fashioned but worth a visit. **Greenwich Studio, Prince of Orange, Greenwich High St, SE10 101-484 5041. Tue-Sun, 8pm. Unit Jan 8**

**A TALE OF TWO CITIES** Alex Danson plays Darnay and Timothy Walker as Sydney Carton in Matthew Farnham's version of the Dickens novel. **Greenwich, Prince of Orange, SE10 101-484 5041. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. 2.30pm. Sun. Dec 25-27 or Jan 2. Tickets £3.50.**

**THE THREEPENNY OPERA** Tom Hollander sings *Madchen in Kur*. West's opera. Words by the team of writers customarily known as "Bertolt Brecht". **Phoenix, 101-484 5041. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. 2.30pm. Sun. Dec 25-27 or Jan 2. Tickets £3.50.**

**WASTED DOWN THE WIND** Three children find a magic in a barn and mistake him for Jesus. **National Youth Theatre, 101-484 5041. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. 2.30pm. Sun. Dec 25-27 or Jan 2. Tickets £3.50.**

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** Patrick Barlow plays the unforgettable

## NEW RELEASES

**THE MIGHTY DUCKS (U)** Suite adventures of America's ice hockey team. **Warner, 101-484 5041. 121-121-6388.**

**THE SPECIALIST (R)** Steven Seagal stars as a private investigator who uncovers a conspiracy to assassinate a senator. **Warner, 101-484 5041. 121-121-6388.**

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Created by *THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA* **Warner, 101-484 5041. 121-121-6388.**

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Created by *THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA* **Warner, 101-484 5041. 121-121-6388.**

## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where to see them (where indicated with the symbol) on release across the country

**Danny DeVito, Director, Man From Deep South** **101-484 5041. 121-121-6388.**

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** **101-484 5041. 121-121-6388.**

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** **101-484 5041. 121-121-6388.**

## ENTERTAINMENTS

**OPERA & BALLET**

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Tickets: £10-£34.444  
The Birmingham Royal Ballet

**THE NUTCRACKER**  
"The Nutcracker" is a British dance tradition of remarkable longevity, the company having performed it annually at the Festival Hall for more than 40 years. At least three million people have seen it since 1952; already more than 250,000 have seen the current production by Ben Stevenson, which was premiered in 1991.

## THEATRES

**ALDEYH WGS 01-532 8300 (20th)**  
Tonight: *The Nutcracker*  
Tickets: £10-£34.444  
The Birmingham Royal Ballet

**THE NUTCRACKER**  
"The Nutcracker" is a British dance tradition of remarkable longevity, the company having performed it annually at the Festival Hall for more than 40 years. At least three million people have seen it since 1952; already more than 250,000 have seen the current production by Ben Stevenson, which was premiered in 1991.

## DINING OUT

**The Night of All Nights**  
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## LAW

● NEXT WEEK: LEGAL PITFALLS  
OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

David Pannick, QC, reviews a legal year in which all sections of the law have been called into question

# A stressful year was had by all

John Walker, a social worker, won damages this year against his former employer, Northumberland County Council, because it had unreasonably exposed him to excessive stress and so had failed to provide a safe system of work. In fact 1994 has generally been a year of stress in the courts — for lawyers, judges and litigants alike.

The Government has not escaped its share: the Court of Appeal held that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, abused prerogative powers by introducing a new scheme for compensating victims of crime; the Divisional Court held that Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, acted unlawfully in authorising aid for the Pergau dam project in Malaysia; and that Home Office procedures for considering alleged miscarriages of justice should involve less secrecy and more disclosure of information.

Sentences also prompted some dissatisfaction. A convicted child molester complained that his sentence of nine years' imprisonment was not long enough. "What sort of sentence is that?" he asked the judge. The woman who abducted baby Abbie Humphries was put on probation for three years, with a condition that she receives psychiatric care. David Astor, former Editor of *The Observer*, described Myra Hindley (serving life imprisonment for her part in the Moors murders) as a "political prisoner".

The police and criminal justice system generally also came in for their share of criticism. Mr Justice Ognall concluded that a police undercover operation was "a blatant attempt to incriminate a suspect by positive and deceptive conduct of the grossest kind", and ordered a not guilty verdict on a man accused of the 1992 murder of Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common.

The European Commission of Human Rights found that Ernest Saunders did not have a fair trial when he was convicted and imprisoned for his conduct during the takeover of Distillers by Guinness. The Crown Prosecution Service decided not to charge Mohamed Al Fayed after the Prime Minister

asked that consideration be given to whether improper pressure had been put on the Government in relation to allegations of financial misconduct by ministers.

The jury confirmed its place at the heart of the justice system. A judge discharged a jury and ordered a retrial of a fraud case at Exeter Crown Court because two jurors complained that a fellow juror had fleas. At the Old Bailey, a jury was discharged after one juror was accused of smoking cannabis in the jury room. A man convicted of murder was retried (and again convicted) because the Court of Appeal heard that four members of the original jury had used a Ouija board to try to contact the defendant's victims.

There was a diversity of court rulings spanning sport to pop music, religious affairs to sexual harassment. Paul Elliott lost his claim for compensation for the tackle by Dean Saunders which ended his career as a footballer. George Michael failed to establish that his record contract with Sony was "effectively professional slavery" and so an unreasonable restraint of trade. A minister of the Church of England unsuccessfully tried to have the Archbishop of Canterbury punished for high treason for allowing the ordination of women priests.

The Court of Appeal decided that planning law prohibited a man from keeping a lifesize model Spitfire on his roof. The Attorney-General obtained an injunction banning *Maxwell: The Musical* two weeks before it was due to open in the West End of London. An ecclesiastical court held that a vicar was entitled to prohibit a family from inscribing a tombstone with the words "dad" and "grandad". A yacht designer and his firm were awarded more than £1.4 million in libel damages for criticism by *Yachting World* of their trimaran.

After a nine-day hearing, an industrial tribunal rejected a claim by an executive with the Child Support Agency that he had been sexually harassed by a female colleague. European Commission



Stars of the year: clockwise, O.J. Simpson, John Walker, George Michael, Gillian Taylor, Judge Owen Stabile, QC, and Ernest Saunders, were all under an often unwelcome spotlight

Regulation No 2257/94 imposed quality standards for bananas, including a prohibition on "abnormal curvature". In the American state of Virginia, a jury concluded that Lorena Bobbitt was "temporarily insane" and so not guilty of maliciously wounding her husband when she cut off his penis with a kitchen knife as he slept.

*EastEnders* actress Gillian Taylor and her fiancé, Geoffrey Knights, lost a libel claim against *The Sun* after the newspaper reported that a police officer saw them having oral sex in their Range Rover on a slip road off the A1 in Hertfordshire. Mr Knights told the jury that he had undone his trousers because he was suffering from pain from pancreatitis. As part of the evidence, the jury watched through the windows of a Range

Rover in the car park of the Royal Courts of Justice as the plaintiffs and two *Sun* journalists gave competing presentations of what they said had occurred on the night in question, though in each case without any loosening of trousers.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal against convictions for conspiracy to murder and ordered a retrial (at which the defendants were acquitted) because the trial judge had intervened so frequently and with such hostility during the defendants' evidence that his conduct went "far beyond the bounds of legitimate judicial conduct" and had denied a fair hearing. During his closing speech at an Old Bailey trial, defence counsel accused the judge of using body language to tell the jury that "in his view our case is a load of rubbish", an allegation

strongly denied by the judge. John Platts-Mills, QC, wrote to *The Times* to say that in his judgment if Mr Justice Melford Stevenson had fairly tried the murder allegations against the Kray brothers in 1969, in which Platts-Mills appeared for the defence, "both twins might well have got off".

Outside the courts, the Lord Chancellor wrote to circuit judges, stipendiary magistrates and tribunal chairmen warning them that improper conduct, such as drink-driving and actions which cause offence on racial or sexual grounds, could lead to their dismissal for misbehaviour. For the first time, judicial appointments (as district judges and circuit judges) were advertised. A survey revealed

that the cost of maintaining some of the Judges' Lodgings in various parts of the country was more than £10,000 for every week that a judge is in residence.

The Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, gave a warning that cost and delay were "a cancer eating at the heart" of justice. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, complained that litigation was "beyond the means of all save the very rich or those so poor as to be in the shrinking band eligible for legal aid". The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, appointed Lord Woolf to consider and then recommend improvements to civil procedure.

Technology arrived in the courtroom. A defendant was told by Gloucester magistrates that he risked a prison sentence for contempt when his mobile phone rang while he was in the dock facing a charge of handling stolen goods and he answered the call, whispering "I can't talk now". In the Falkirk Sheriff Court, a lawyer had difficulty switching off his musical socks. A Scottish sheriff reprimanded two defendants for answering questions with "aye" instead of "yes".

Meanwhile, judges made their own headlines. At Snaresbrook Crown Court, Judge Owen Stabile, QC, (wrongly described by the *Daily Mail* as a "top judge") told three teenage joyriders that if "this country had not sold itself down the river to Europe" he could and would "order each one of you to be flogged".

By contrast, in the Philippines, a judge proposed that defendants convicted of capital crimes should wrestle with cobras inside an aquarium open to public gaze. A High Court judge ordered a pensioner to pay £4,000 compensation to the burglar he shot on his allotment. A Swedish court ordered a burglar to pay damages of about £250 for shocking a parrot that was now afraid to stay at home alone.

But arguably it was in the United States where the workings of the law attracted most attention. In Los Angeles, O.J. Simpson pleaded "absolutely, 100 per cent not guilty" to the charge of murdering his former

wife and her friend. The Idaho Supreme Court decided to allow judges to wear robes in the colour of their choice, and not just the traditional black, "so long as the choices fit the decorum of a courtroom".

The Illinois Supreme Court placed a limit on the length of judgments by lower appellate courts: majority opinions cannot exceed 20 pages, and concurring and dissenting opinions are confined to five pages.

A jury in New Mexico ordered the McDonald's hamburger chain to pay damages of \$2.9 million (£1.85 million), later reduced by the judge to \$480,000, to an elderly woman who burnt herself with a cup of coffee purchased in the restaurant and which she spilt in her lap while travelling in a car.

In San Francisco, a secretary was awarded \$7.1 million against her former employers, the law firm Baker & McKenzie, for sexual harassment during the three months that she worked at their offices. In New York, a man was jailed for 18 months for stealing 65 pairs of shoes owned by Marla Trump, the jury not being persuaded by his defence that he was having a "physical, psychological and sexual relationship" with the footwear. A woman suing President Clinton for alleged sexual harassment filed a sealed affidavit which she claimed described "distinguishing characteristics" of the President's genitals.

The California Court of Appeal overturned an award of damages for fraud in a case brought by a man who claimed that he would never have married his wife if she had not falsely told him that she loved him and found him sexually attractive. The court concluded that "these are matters better left to advice columnists than to judges and juries".

Lawyers throughout the world are hoping that in 1995 litigants will continue to see courts as the forum for the resolution of their problems. The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

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Law Report December 27 1994 Queen's Bench Divisional Court

# Foreign aid for purpose known not to be sound is unlawful

**Regina v Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Ex parte World Development Movement Ltd**  
Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Scott Baker  
[Judgment November 10]

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs did not have power under section 1(1) of the Overseas Development and Cooperation Act 1980 to grant financial aid for the purpose of promoting development where the provision of aid was for a purpose known by the government not to be sound economic development.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court stated when granting an application by World Development Movement Ltd for judicial review of a decision of the Foreign Secretary made on July 15, 1991 to make a grant under the 1980 Act for funding of the Pergau Dam in Malaysia and a decision of April 29, 1994 by which he refused to withhold outstanding payments made under the 1980 Act to fund the building of the dam.

The argument before the court was whether the grant in question was for the purpose of promoting the development of Malaysia.

Section 1 of the 1980 Act provides: "(1) The Secretary of State shall have power, for the purpose of promoting the development or maintaining the economy of a country or territory outside the United Kingdom, or the welfare of its people, to furnish any person or body with assistance, whether financial, technical or of any other nature."

Mr Nigel Pleming QC and Mr Owen Davies for World Development Movement and Stephen Richards for the Secretary of State.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said that there were four issues before the court. First, whether the applicants had standing to make the application. Second, whether disclosure should be

ordered of two minutes dated February 5 and 7, 1991 from Sir Tim Lankester, Permanent Secretary in the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) to the Minister of Overseas Development, Baroness Chalker. Third, whether the July decision was unlawful. Fourth, what the appropriate relief was, if any, taking delay into account.

Mr Pleming had submitted that the applicants were a non-partisan pressure group concerned with the misuse of aid money. If there was a public law error, it was difficult to see how else it could be challenged and corrected except by such an application.

The question of lawfulness being for the court, he submitted that the court in its discretion should accept the standing of the World Development Movement. Neither a government nor citizen of a foreign country denied aid was, in practical terms, likely to be able to bring such a challenge.

Mr Richards submitted that with no direct personal interest in funding and in seeking to act in the interest of potential recipients of aid, the applicants' interest was too remote to be sufficient.

In his Lordship's judgment, standing, albeit decided in the exercise of discretion, went to jurisdiction. But there was nothing in *R v Inland Revenue Commissioners, Ex parte National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses Ltd* (1982) AC 617 to deny standing to the applicants.

The authorities referred to seemed to indicate an increasingly liberal approach to standing on the part of the courts during the last 12 years. It was also clear from *Ex parte National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses Ltd* (1982) AC 617 that standing should not be treated as a preliminary issue, but had to be taken in the legal and factual context of the whole case. Furthermore the merits of the challenge were an important, if not

dominant, factor when considering standing.

In the present case there were a number of significant factors: the importance of vindicating the rule of law; the importance of the issue raised, as in *R v Secretary of State for Social Services and Another, Ex parte Child Poverty Action Group and Others* (1990) 2 QB 549; the likely absence of any other responsible challenger, as in *Ex parte CFPA* and in *R v HM Inspectorate of Pollution and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ex parte Greenpeace* (1994) 1 WLR 570; the nature of the breach of duty against which relief was sought and the prominent role of the applicants in giving advice, guidance and assistance with regard to aid.

All, in his Lordship's judgment, pointed in the present case to the conclusion that the applicants did have a sufficient interest within section 3(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 and Order 53, rule 3(7) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

It seemed pertinent to add that if the Divisional Court in *R v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Ex parte Rees-Mogg* (The Times July 31, 1993; [1994] 2 WLR 115) was able to accept that the applicant had standing in the light of his "sincere concerns for national issues", a fortiori, it seemed that the present applicants with their national and international expertise and interest in promoting and protecting aid to under-developed nations, should have standing.

As to disclosure of the two minutes, it was common ground that in judicial review proceedings generally, disclosure was not available, as it was in a writ action under Order 24, rules 1 and 2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court; that an application could be made under rule 3, which by virtue of Order 24, rule 3 would be refused if discovery was not

necessary for disposing of the case fairly, and that the judgment of the Court of Appeal in *R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Inlington London Borough Council* (unreported July 10, 1991) was pertinent.

In his Lordship's judgment, although the affidavits of the respondent gave manifestly incomplete summaries of the minutes, and of the advice tendered to the secretary of state, the secretary of state's letter of May 11, 1994 to the foreign affairs committee unambiguously assuring that the summaries were full and accurate, gave in the circumstances, an effective answer to the claim for discovery when taken with the summaries of the minutes exhibited elsewhere in the evidence.

There was no basis for questioning the accuracy of those summaries which in the light of *Ex parte Inlington* was a necessary prerequisite for granting discovery of original documents.

Furthermore, the summaries provided the applicants with highly valuable ammunition to which it seemed unlikely that the minutes themselves would materially add.

On the merits of the substantive application Mr Pleming submitted that the power conferred by section 1(1) of the 1980 Act was limited to the purpose imposed by the subsection, namely, in the present circumstances, for promoting development. It was not a power to be used to make decisions on that basis.

Mr Richards contended that the power to furnish assistance was not absolute or unfettered, but could only be exercised to advance the purposes for which it was conferred.

He submitted that, in the light of material in the affidavits of evidence of the secretary of state, he was motivated by purposes not permitted by the statute, that his decision was made in reliance of irrelevant facts and matters and in defiance of relevant considerations and advice, in particular to the effect that the project was not sound economic development, and was not made for a purpose within section 1. The crucial question in his Lordship's judgment was whether there was, indeed, a purpose within the Act.

Mr Pleming submitted that the provision of aid for a purpose known by the government not to be sound economic development could not be within section 1 and in the absence of any evidence that financial assistance would be likely to promote development, there was no room for any wider perspective, such as that which the secretary of state referred to having been taken into consideration.

The reason or motive, Mr Pleming submitted, was political or diplomatic, namely that the Prime Minister had given an undertaking in March 1989 that Britain would provide aid and trade provision support and it would be detrimental to British interests to go back on that word. Section 1 conferred no power to make decisions on that basis.

Mr Richards contended that the decision to furnish assistance fell squarely within the power in section 1(1). In particular it was furnished for a purpose specified, namely a developmental purpose, and the Foreign Secretary was entitled to take account of wider political and economic considerations. It was common ground that a power exercised outside the statutory power was unlawful. In the present case Mr

Pleming submitted that the power to furnish assistance was not absolute or unfettered, but could only be exercised to advance the purposes for which it was conferred.

He submitted that, in the light of material in the affidavits of evidence of the secretary of state, he was motivated by purposes not permitted by the statute, that his decision was made in reliance of irrelevant facts and matters and in defiance of relevant considerations and advice, in particular to the effect that the project was not sound economic development, and was not made for a purpose within section 1. The crucial question in his Lordship's judgment was whether there was, indeed, a purpose within the Act.

Mr Pleming submitted that the provision of aid for a purpose known by the government not to be sound economic development could not be within section 1 and in the absence of any evidence that financial assistance would be likely to promote development, there was no room for any wider perspective, such as that which the secretary of state referred to having been taken into consideration.

The reason or motive, Mr Pleming submitted, was political or diplomatic, namely that the Prime Minister had given an undertaking in March 1989 that Britain would provide aid and trade provision support and it would be detrimental to British interests to go back on that word. Section 1 conferred no power to make decisions on that basis.

Mr Richards contended that the decision to furnish assistance fell squarely within the power in section 1(1). In particular it was furnished for a purpose specified, namely a developmental purpose, and the Foreign Secretary was entitled to take account of wider political and economic considerations. It was common ground that a power exercised outside the statutory power was unlawful. In the present case Mr

efficiency of public expenditure on the other. The secretary of state was of course generally speaking, fully entitled when making decisions, to take into account political and economic considerations such as the promotion of regional stability, good government, human rights and British commercial interests.

In the present case, the political impossibility of withdrawing the 1989 offer had been recognised since mid-April 1989, and had there, in 1991, been a development promotion purpose within section 1 of the Act, it would have been entirely proper for the secretary of state to have taken into account also the impact withdrawal would have had both on the UK's credibility as a reliable friend and trading partner and on political and commercial relations with Malaysia.

But for the reasons given, there was in July 1991 no such purpose within the section and it followed that, in his Lordship's judgment, that decision was unlawful.

As relief, it was not until earlier in 1994 that material matters could be known to the applicants. In any event, the general importance of the matter might itself be a reason for resolving the substantive issues, even where there had been delay: see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Ruddock and Others* (1987) WLR 1482.

His Lordship was entirely satisfied that there was good reason within Order 53, rule 4 for extending time, and that the delay provided no basis in itself for refusing relief.

For the reasons given his Lordship would grant a declaration that the challenged decision of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in July 1991 was unlawful.

Mr Justice Scott Baker agreed.  
Solicitors: Bindman & Partners, Camden; Treasury Solicitor.

## Bind-over offers no conclusive defence

**Hourihan and Another v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis**  
Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Beldam and Lord Justice Hoffmann  
[Judgment December 19]

The fact that a prosecution culminated in a party being bound over to keep the peace was not, irrespective of other facts, a conclusive defence in law to a claim for malicious prosecution brought by that party, where the sole foundation for the bind-over was the material on which the prosecution had been based.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing the appeal of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis from Judge Quentin Edwards who had declined to strike out a claim for malicious prosecution brought in Westminster County Court against him by the plaintiffs, Joanna and Sarah Hourihan.

The plaintiffs had been arrested following an incident outside a public house. Joanna Hourihan was charged with assault contrary to section 51(1) of the Police Act 1964 and her sister, Sarah Hourihan, was charged with disorderly behaviour contrary to section 5 of the Public Order Act 1966.

When the matter came before the magistrate both sisters disputed the charges, and subject to the court's approval, the Crown Prosecution Service offered not to proceed if they agreed to be bound over to keep the peace and be of good behaviour.

They each agreed. Each was bound over in her own recognisance of £50 for six months, the charges were dismissed and costs were awarded in their favour from central funds.

Mr Colin Challenger for the

commissioner; Mr Tim Owen for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that the commissioner had argued that in an action for malicious prosecution it was essential for a plaintiff to show that the prosecution had determined in his favour.

A person who agreed to be bound over must have been taken to have admitted the existence of facts justifying a magistrate in making such an order. Where those facts arose from the same events which gave rise to the charge for which he was prosecuted he could not contend that the outcome of the case had been favourable to him.

The minute of adjudication was said to be conclusive evidence that the proceedings had not terminated in the plaintiff's favour. But the minute had shown that the specific charges were dismissed after a plea of not guilty had been tendered; that each plaintiff had been bound over in the sum of £50 for six months and that costs out of central funds had been ordered in their favour. Such orders would only be appropriate in the case of successful parties.

The magistrate had made the order binding the plaintiffs over in the exercise of his powers under the Justices of the Peace Act 1361 or at common law. The present proceedings were not brought on complaint to him under section 115 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, a power first introduced by section 25 of the Summary Jurisdiction Act 1879.

Had the plaintiffs' claim been founded on such proceedings and had they been bound over under that section the commissioner's submission would have been correct: see *Basee v Matthews* (1867) LR 2 CP 684 and *Everett v Ribbands* (1952) 2 QB 196. A record that on the occasion

when the charges were dismissed the plaintiffs had been bound over could not of itself bar their claim that the dismissed charges had been maliciously brought. An acquitted defendant might be bound over.

Nor did the fact that an acquitted defendant had been bound over necessarily mean that the justices were satisfied that he had on the occasion in question been guilty of conduct amounting to a breach of the peace.

They need only have had material before them from which they could reasonably have considered that there was a risk of a breach of the peace in the future unless action were taken to prevent it, although they could not act capriciously. They might, however, be satisfied that there was such a risk even though the conduct of an acquitted defendant, if repeated, would not have amounted to a breach of the peace, provided his conduct might stimulate a breach by others.

Where the reason for the justices' action was not obvious they should explain to a defendant the reason why they proposed to bind him over. Here the plaintiffs had argued that the factual basis for the bind-over was never properly established and accordingly that no inference could be drawn that the proceedings against them had terminated unfavourably to them.

Although not significant here, that argument demonstrated the need to establish clearly the basis of any agreement to be bound over as part of a plea bargain which involved the dismissal of charges.

There might be many reasons why a defendant would prefer to agree to be bound over to keep the peace in future than to run the risk of a conviction. A convicted defendant might be bound over as part of his sentence. In that case it

would form part of his antecedent record. If he was not convicted but bound over it would not form part of his record.

It was therefore impossible to draw any inference that proceedings had terminated adversely to a defendant from the mere statement that he was bound over or from his agreement to be bound over. Here the court record showed that no evidence was offered against the plaintiffs and the charges were dismissed.

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**Mohamed Aikawa Omar and Others v Chiklo Aikawa Omar and Others**  
Before Mr Justice Jacob  
[Judgment December 16]

Information and documents produced by a bank pursuant to a court order granted in relation to a trading claim could be used also for the purposes of mounting personal claims against individuals and pursuing parallel remedies in other jurisdictions.

Mr Justice Jacob so held in the Chancery Division, on applications by the plaintiffs, Mohamed, Laila, and Abdel Aziz Omar for further relief against the defendants: Chiklo Aikawa Omar, Chiklo Diana Omar, Coeng Corporation Ltd and Northam Enterprises Inc and Panamanian companies, Mr Marten Neil Rutherford and Mr Paul Jemson, directors of Coeng, Mr Efraim Horroque, Mr Diogenes Arosomena and Mr Jaime Araell, directors of Northam, and Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York.

Miss Elizabeth Jones for the plaintiffs; Ms Clare Refin for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that

Dr Omar, a rich man, had died in 1992 leaving a widow and a mistress. The plaintiffs, representatives of his estate, contended that the assets of Coeng and Northam were effectively part of his estate.

There was *prima facie* evidence that one bearer share in each company had been stolen after his death by Chiklo Aikawa and Chiklo Diana, who, having control, had been diverting each of its assets: for example, Northam had sold Dr Omar's flat, the proceeds finishing in the account of Chiklo Aikawa in a bank in Paris.

On November 10 his Lordship had made against Morgan Guaranty Trust Company a wide-ranging tracing order in relation to Coeng, based on *Bankers Trust Co v Shapira* (1980) 1 WLR 1275. The bank had complied; but silence still reigned so far as the other defendants were concerned, save that Coeng, served at its registered office in the Isle of Man, had indicated that it did not intend to submit to the jurisdiction.

The plaintiffs now sought the same order in relation to Northam, whose position now appeared indistinguishable from Coeng's.

These points had no weight: as was pointed out in the *Bankers*

Trust case, confidentiality was broken when there was fraud; the case even without the discovered material was *prima facie* strong so there would be no impropriety in any way. Leave to amend would accordingly be given.

For the same reasons, leave would be granted for the use of the discovered material in litigation in other jurisdictions and for inquiries as to the whereabouts of the shares and the identity of their present holders.

Finally, the bank had expunged from the documents as disclosed the name of an Irish company, to which it appeared that there had been an intention to transfer Coeng's assets just after Dr Omar's death.

Ms Refin contended that that company had been no more than a speculative wrongdoer; but it had been formed, had at one time been part of the design and was the defendants' creature. Therefore, in his Lordship's discretion, he would order that its name be disclosed, so that the plaintiffs could follow through their claim to the maximum degree possible.

Solicitors: Farrer & Co. Slaught-ter & May.

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**THE TIMES**

**Win a trip of a lifetime to the biggest party in history**

Day two of The Times Millennium 2000 offering readers the opportunity to experience what is certain to be the greatest, noisiest, most enjoyable festivities of all time. First prize is a 28 day World Air Cruise for two culminating in New Year 1999 in both Fiji and the Cook Islands to see in the new millennium twice. The trip which takes in Dubai, Thailand, Singapore, Tucson and Washington and includes Christmas 1999 in Sydney, helicopter sightseeing over the Arizona desert, would cost £64,000 to book in 1999.

A second prize of a ten-day stay for two in Fiji and the Cook Islands worth up to £7,000 and a third prize of two tickets chosen from any of the millennium party venues available to readers are also on offer.

And should you not be successful in the competition, you can still take part in the festivities by booking the Fiji and Cook Islands trip separately or taking advantage of our selection of deluxe party venues round the world.

The parties are the brain-child of The Millennium Foundation, a non-profit making charity whose worldwide fund raising parties go to help specific local charities. In St Petersburg, for instance, the money will help restore the Hermitage and fund the Kirov Ballet.

One of the parties worth considering is at Southfork ranch, Dallas, home to JR and Sue Ellen, where 1,200 revellers will be entertained in magnificent Texas style as midnight strikes and the sky is lit by a laser and firework display to rival Disney. The cost in 1999 would be £3,250 per person but readers can secure places for £2,250 per person which includes a one-week stay from December 28, 1999 at the Four Seasons Las Colinas Resort, offering two championship golf courses and 12 tennis courts.

**TOKEN 2**

To enter the competition collect the 18 tokens and answer the 18 questions which will appear between December 26 and Saturday January 14. Send the tokens and answers on a separate sheet of paper, stating in not more than 15 words why you would like to join in the celebrations, to: The Times Millennium 2000 Competition, 5 Brittons Court, London EC8B 6NG. Closing date January 31, 1995. Normal Times competition rules apply.

Details of how to book the millennium gala parties, details of which appeared yesterday will appear on Saturday. Further information about the parties can be obtained by writing to: Millennium 2000 Limited, Freeport GW 7623, Glasgow G3 7BR.

## Standard of proof in sexual abuse

In re B (a Minor) (Sexual abuse: Standard of proof)

Where allegations of sexual abuse were made, the standard of proof had to be commensurate with the occasion and proportionate to the subject matter.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Auld) so held on appeal brought by a father against the dismissal by Judge Overend at Truro County Court on April 19, 1994 of his application for contact with two children aged nine and six when there were allegations of sexual abuse of an older child.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that the judge had found that the issue as to whether the sexual abuse had or had not taken place was to be determined according to the standard of the balance of probabilities. But no breach of the peace had been established against the plaintiffs and neither had admitted any breach of the peace.

Theoretically in law, if improbably in fact, the prosecution against them for breaching the peace could have been brought without reasonable or probable cause.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Metropolitan Police; Magrath & Co.







# Potter by numbers, with only two to come

Take one fantasy woman, one ordinary Joe, a solicitor, a crime writer or song sheet salesman will do, a generous helping of unromantic sex and a couple of grisly murders. Raise the temperature thoroughly for 90 minutes and garnish with some finely chopped memories and a few old songs. *Er* void. Ladies and gentlemen, the perfect Dennis Potter play.

Am I being unfair to the man whose last interview was undoubtedly the most powerful television of 1994 and whose name will rightly be writ large in those year-end lists of those who no longer with us? Well, we shall see.

In 1996 the BBC and Channel 4 will, as Potter requested, join forces to bring us his two last works, *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*. Only then will we discover if Potter succeeded in his stated aim of writing his finest work before that last deadline. But in the past

ten days the two channels have provided less certain tributes, first in the shape of the inaccessible *Secret Friends* and second in last night's *Midnight Movie* (BBC 2).

The good news for those already making darts in their 1996 diaries is that of the two, *Midnight Movie* proved far the superior. Renny Rye, who directed it and will direct both *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*, already had *Lipstick on Your Collar* under his belt and now looks completely at home with the Potter style. The one problem here, is that so are we. *Midnight Movie* was unmistakable Potter, almost to the point of caricature — the pasticheur pastiche.

His writer, I suspect, would have enjoyed being given the *Boxing Night* slot for this tale of memory and movies. "Do you know what they're showing tonight on the BBC?" Henry Harris, the Surrey solicitor, asks his film producer client, James Boyce. "Don't tell

me," the giant American sneers: "snooker." The point was well made — whatever his shortcomings, *Midnight Movie* stood out like a welcome British beacon amid a ghastly Yuletide sea of snooker but of American movies.

Potter would also have enjoyed the family theatre that his inevitably shocking tale must have produced in the nation's crowded living rooms. The squirming on the sofa, as Amber (Louise Germaine) showed darts something really quite unusual that can be done with a set of library steps, a mirror and a little imagination. The hurried searching for the remote control, as Harris (Jim Carter) gave green-fingered mums some new ideas on aerating the lawn. The sudden hunt for that unread newspaper article, as he asked his matronly secretary what she knows about nymphomania. "Well..." she



paused, sending a million newspapers nervously fluttering. "I think it's a bit like me and a box of chocolates." Phew, perhaps that article wasn't quite so interesting.

The seasonal relevance of *Midnight Movie* wasn't immediately obvious, although there were one or two possible clues. Amber, for instance, appeared to be doing her *Boxing Day* duty by wearing all the presents that her sugar daddy

husband had given her. If she wasn't waiting around the sitting room in a scarlet halter neck dress and matching stilettos, she was minnying around the hall in crimson silk dressing gown and black Janet Rogers. Throughout, her face wore a haunted, worried expression. Potter's script said she was haunted by the ghost of her dead, film-star mother, Mandy Mason. To me, she looked like a woman worrying whether the shop would change it for something warm, white and winceyete.

Given the constraints of playing a Potter fantasy woman, two fantasy women in this case, Louise Germaine acquitted herself well. Jim Carter faced less of a challenge with Harris, a man of quiet habits — tea at 11 o'clock prompt, a small whisky at quarter-to-six — but with an unhealthy interest in B-movies starring Mandy Mason.

Carter, however, proved a worthy successor to the likes of Bob Hoskins and Michael Gambon, bringing real humanity to the part of a man forced to do a mid-life crisis by a close encounter on the croquet lawn. Brian Dennehy also excelled as Boyce, who as well as marrying Amber may, it turned out, have killed her mother, Mandy.

May? Well by playing his normal tricks with memory and time, you were left with all the normal post-Potter questions, following a conclusion that saw Harris finally getting it not his dream girl, then his daughter. When did it happen? Did it happen at all? Who knows and who cares? Well, for one thing is surely certain. Barring two events in 1996, it will not be happening again.

Andrew Marshall may not be Dennis Potter, but he writes a nice comedy script as the popularity of *2 Point 4 Children* (BBC 1) re-

veals. But perhaps his mind was on other things when he sat down for the ten minutes, or whatever it was, it took him to knock off this Christmas episode.

The last series showed an alarming lunch towards the surreal, at the expense of the domestic comedy that Bill and Ben Porter's household had been generating up until then. Apart from one nice line about a couple who last had sex in 1959 ("Macmillan told them they'd never had it so good, so they didn't try it again"), this episode was not so much surreal, as silly. If the arrival of three American marines wearing silver-lamé jockstraps wasn't silly enough (cosy of a computer internet that had confused Bill Porter for Bill Clinton) the whole episode was wrapped up five minutes early to go into a completely unrelated song and dance routine. Still, it was nice to see Belinda Lang looking drop-dead glamorous for a change.

## REVIEW

### Matthew Bond

## CHOICE

### Black Christmas: Baby Fathers

Channel 4, 9.00pm

This absorbing programme considers the role of the family courts of Jamaica as they resolve disputes over child maintenance and welfare. Some 86 per cent of children in the country are born outside marriage and the cases often revolve around blood tests to establish who is the father. The programme suggests that Jamaica's history of slavery means that in the past men did not have responsibility towards their offspring because the children were owned by their white masters. It is perhaps a legacy of that situation that today some Jamaican fathers "love at a distance and support at a further distance" as one advocate puts it. Three graphic cases are followed by the cameras: a father is accused of failing to keep up with maintenance payments; a man claims the children he has been bringing up are not his own and a woman disputes a man's claim to be the father of her little girl.

### Tyto the Barn Owl

BBC2, 6.00pm

The fragile life of a barn owl and its brood is captured in film in Simon King's exquisite animal drama. Despite the anthropomorphic naming of the birds, the account is on survival rather than sentimentality as we follow the fortunes of Tyto's entire family, witnessing scenes such as the youngsters' confrontation with a tawny owl and the near drowning of Tyto's mate, Alba. There are also encounters with foxes, humans and, harrowing, a passing car. For King, one of the great fascinations of the project was watching the transformation of the chicks from "ugly bundles of skin and fluff into one of the most beautiful creatures on earth" and some of the most arresting sequences linger on the special barn owl in flight.

### Flanders and Swann

BBC1, 6.50pm

After Donald Swann's death this year, John Arnis presents an enjoyable celebration of the duo whose "air of gentle chaos and casual improvisation" belied the precision of Swann's music and Flanders' unforgetable lyrics. At their most famous in the 1950s and 1960s, the pair were known for their "happy" "mad, mud, glorious mud", the pair also wrote about ostriches and gnus as well as the all-too-fallible human species. The film includes recently discovered archive footage showing them in London and on Broadway, where the Americans lapped up the British quips and even put up with Flanders' whimsies such as "Always remember that if it hadn't been for the English, you'd all be Spanish."

### Carrot-Like

BBC1, 10.00pm

Comedian Jasper Carrott is at his best when offering well-observed jokes on subjects close to his heart — a one and Birmingham City Football Club served him well in the early days. The fact that this is his first stand-up comedy show in two years is a good sign, suggesting that he has had ample time to come up with his material. Intercut with his monologues are sketches featuring guests including Sara Crowe and Ann Bryson from the Philadelphia cheese ads and his customary spoofs of contemporary commercials.



Tom Hanks and his best friend (8.30pm)

### 8.30 FILM: Turner and Hoach

Turner and Hoach (1989) starring Tom Hanks as an obsessively neat policeman who is forced to team up with the only witness to a murder, a flea-bitten dog. Directed by Roger Spottiswoode (s) (1987/1027)

### 10.20 Late News

10.20 Late News (Teletext) and weather (975244)

### 10.35 FILM: Navy SEALs

10.35 FILM: Navy SEALs (1990) starring Charlie Sheen and Joanne Whalley-Kilmer. The American Navy's elite commando unit sets out to destroy a cache of stolen weapons in the Middle East. Directed by Lewis Teague (86222805)

### 12.35m The Equalizer

12.35m The Equalizer. The pilot episode of the series starring Edward Woodward (8480400)

### 1.30 FILM: Lost Horizon

1.30 FILM: Lost Horizon (1937) starring Peter Finch, Michael York and John Gielgud. The survivors of a plane crash discover the mystical Valley of the Blue Moon and a place known as Shangri-La. Directed by Charles Jaman (85940867)

### 3.55 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema

3.55 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (s) (86718480)

### 4.25 FILM: Mystery at Castle House

4.25 FILM: Mystery at Castle House (1981). Three youngsters exploring a deserted mansion become involved in a series of adventures when they discover a dark labyrinth of cellars. Directed by Peter Maxwell (7240857)

### 5.45 Cartoons

5.45 Cartoons (8047190)

### 5.55 ITN Morning News

5.55 ITN Morning News (5795312). Ends at 6.00

## CARTLON

### 6.00am GMTV

6.00am GMTV. Begins with 6.10 Features Special 7.00 News and sport 7.30 Barney and Friends 8.40 Tom and Jerry Kids 8.55 Galaxy High School (6615758)

### 9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man

9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man (8927756) 9.50 James Bond Junior (s) (1746892)

### 10.15 FILM: The Little Kidnappers

10.15 FILM: The Little Kidnappers (1990) starring Charlton Heston. A pair of Scottish orphans are branded kidnappers when they discover an abandoned baby. Directed by Donald Shebib (23575534)

### 12.00 Home and Away

12.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (536689)

### 12.30pm News

12.30pm News (Teletext) and weather (96558098)

### 12.40 Emmerdale

12.40 Emmerdale (s) (Teletext) (8778176)

### 1.10 The Magic of David Copperfield

1.10 The Magic of David Copperfield. More mesmerising illusions (3906242)

### 2.10 Warner Brothers Cartoon

2.10 Warner Brothers Cartoon (20091602)

### 2.15 FILM: MacKenna's Gold

2.15 FILM: MacKenna's Gold (1969) starring Gregory Peck, Omar Sharif and Telly Savalas. When a sheriff acquires a map leading to untold wealth, he sets out to trace the legendary lost canyon, avoiding the ruthless fortune hunters he has attracted. Directed by J. Lee Thompson (51400404)

### 4.40 Home and Away

4.40 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (8967282)

### 5.10 News

5.10 News (Teletext) and weather (3492602)

### 5.25 FILM: Arthur 2: On the Rocks

5.25 FILM: Arthur 2: On the Rocks (1988) starring Dudley Moore and Liza Minnelli. Four years have passed since the tipsy millionaire rode off into the future with his inheritance and his true love, Arthur and Linda are now married, but she reveals that she is unable to have children and wants to adopt. Directed by Bud Yorkin. (Teletext) (12350805)

### 7.30 Emmerdale

7.30 Emmerdale (Teletext) (466)

### 8.00 The Bill: Dearly Departed

8.00 The Bill: Dearly Departed. (Teletext) (8260)

## CHANNEL 4

### 6.40am Terrytowns

6.40am Terrytowns (85805) 7.30 Pro-Stars (s) (31440)

### 7.00 The Big Breakfast

7.00 The Big Breakfast (84447)

### 10.00 The Morning Line

10.00 The Morning Line. A preview of today's racing action from Kempton Park (67534)

### 10.30 Batman

10.30 Batman. Penguin and Joker have hidden in the Batmobile, intending to infiltrate the Batcave. (Teletext) (830331)

### 11.00 Tintin (s)

11.00 Tintin (s) (1509)

### 11.30 Wet Wet Wet — Live at the Royal Albert Hall

11.30 Wet Wet Wet — Live at the Royal Albert Hall. The Scottish rock stars in concert (s) (7130178)

### 12.25pm Channel 4 Racing

12.25pm Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park introduced by Brough Scott. Includes races at 12.45, 1.15, 1.45 and 2.20 (8904673)

### 3.15 As It Happened: The Day They Landed on the Moon

3.15 As It Happened: The Day They Landed on the Moon. This programme recreates the atmosphere of this historic moment, using unseen amateur footage inside the launch pad and spectacular NASA footage of the landing and Neil Armstrong's historic step (s) (9788282)

### 5.00 The Mousehole Cat

5.00 The Mousehole Cat. Moving tale based on the original drawings by Nicole Bayley. Sara Phillips narrates the story and the music is by Ian Hughes (s) (9718)

### 5.30 News Summary

5.30 News Summary and weather (585244)

### 5.35 Gamesmaster

5.35 Gamesmaster with Dominik Diamond and Patrick Moore (s) (251534)

### 6.05 FILM: The Adventures of Baron Munchausen

6.05 FILM: The Adventures of Baron Munchausen. Fantasy adventure about the infamous storyteller played by John Neville. With Eric Idle, Sarah Polley, Oliver Reed, Jonathan Pryce, Bill Paterson, Alison Steadman, Sting and Robin Williams. Directed by Terry Gilliam (86486756)

### 8.30 Brookside

8.30 Brookside (Teletext) (s) (7737)

### 9.00 Black Christmas: Baby Fathers

9.00 Black Christmas: Baby Fathers (249718)

### 9.55 Black Christmas: Shooting Stars

9.55 Black Christmas: Shooting Stars with bass player Chi Chi Nwanoku (s) (337766)

### 10.05 One Night Stand: Ellen DeGeneres

10.05 One Night Stand: Ellen DeGeneres. The freespoken comedy actress shares her wry observations about modern love in her one woman show filmed at the Old Vic Theatre in Chicago (s) (Teletext) (836666)

### 10.35 FILM: Othello

10.35 FILM: Othello (1952, b/w) Orson Welles starred in and directed this classic film adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy, which was four years in the making. It has now been restored and includes a complete re-recording of the soundtrack. With Suzanne Cloutier and Michael MacLiammoir. (Teletext) (83317447)

### 12.20am South Central: Dog

12.20am South Central: Dog. Tasha's 14-year-old friend makes repeated advances towards Andre, and the employees at the co-op almost revolt when Bobby keeps working long hours without a break (8461374)

### 12.45 FILM: Rouge

12.45 FILM: Rouge (1987). The Chinese Ghost Stories series continues with this romantic fantasy starring Anita Mui as a courtesan who returns as a ghost after 43 years to seek the spectre of her one-time lover. Directed by Stanley Kwan. In Cantonese with English subtitles (805312). Ends at 2.25



Orson Welles and Suzanne Cloutier (10.35pm)

## BBC1

### 7.00 News

7.00 News, regional news and weather (9521060)

### 7.10-1.00 Children's BBC

7.10-1.00 Children's BBC beginning with *Secret Life of Toys*. Animation (s) (9541824) 7.25 Felix the Cat (9546379) 7.40 Marlene Marlowe Investigates (s) (9777802)

### 8.00 News

8.00 News, regional news and weather (7509176)

### 8.10 The Adventures of Skippy

8.10 The Adventures of Skippy (s) (4522668) 6.35 Swat Kats (s) (9399737)

### 9.00 News

9.00 News (Teletext) and weather (5288534)

### 9.05 Buckley O'Hare

9.05 Buckley O'Hare (s) (8912824) 9.30 Why Don't You...? (s) (75992) 10.00 Playdays (s) (1536756) 10.20 William's Wish Wellingtons (s) (2957553) 10.35 Joe 90. Puppet adventures (2618244)

### 11.00 FILM: One of our Dinosaurs is Missing

11.00 FILM: One of our Dinosaurs is Missing (1975) starring Peter Ustinov, Helen Hayes and Olive Reilly. A Disney comedy directed by Robert Stevenson. (Coefax) (10282)

### 12.30 The Flintstones

12.30 The Flintstones. (Coefax) (8764973) 12.55 Regional News and weather (14099824)

### 1.00 One O'Clock News

1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (24529008)

### 1.05 Neighbours

1.05 Neighbours. (Coefax) (s) (27946840)

### 1.25 The Nutcracker

1.25 The Nutcracker. Peter Wright's production of the classic Christmas ballet performed by the Birmingham Royal Ballet with Russian star Irak Mukhametov and the Japanese ballerina Miyoko Yoshida. Bary Wordsworth conducts the Royal Ballet Sinfonia (s) (90543973)

### 3.05 Bugs Bunny

3.05 Bugs Bunny. Cartoon fun (4054268)

### 3.25 World Cup '94

3.25 World Cup '94. Highlights (1062911)

### 4.35 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles

4.35 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles. (Coefax) (s) (7317379)

### 5.20 News

5.20 News (Coefax) and weather (3403718)

### 5.35 Beatrice Potter: The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends

5.35 Beatrice Potter: The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends. The Tale of Pipping Blend — the first of our animated Beatrice Potter stories. (Coefax) (521805)

### 6.00 Neighbours

6.00 Neighbours. (Coefax) (s) (970368)

### 6.20 The Brittas Empire

6.20 The Brittas Empire. A special edition of the laudible crime comedy — set in 1919. (Coefax) (s) (883398)

### 6.50 Big Break in Wonderland

6.50 Big Break in Wonderland. Jim Davidson's snooker game show. (Coefax) (s) (445813)

### 7.30 EastEnders

7.30 EastEnders. (Coefax) (s) (398)

### 8.00 FILM: Dick Tracy

8.00 FILM: Dick Tracy (1990) starring Warren Beatty, Madonna and Glenn Headly. Screen version of the Chester Gould comic strip detective. Directed by Warren Beatty. (Coefax) (s) (197621)

### 9.40 News

9.40 News (Coefax) and weather (479350)

### 10.00 News

10.00 News (Coefax) and weather (479350)

### 10.50 Films Of The Year with Barry Norman

10.50 Films Of The Year with Barry Norman. (Coefax) (s) (436114)

### 11.35 U2 — Zoomeranged

11.35 U2 — Zoomeranged. The rock band recorded in concert at Sydney Football Stadium (s) (243485)

### 1.05am FILM: My Darling Clementine

1.05am FILM: My Darling Clementine (1946) starring John Wayne, Montgomery Clift and Edward G. Robinson. A romantic comedy about a film director's wife who resorts to subterfuge in order to appear in his version of *Madam Butterfly*. Directed by Jack Cardiff (229041)

### 3.00 Weather

3.00 Weather (9459186)

## BBC2

### 8.10 FILM: Kim

8.10 FILM: Kim (1950) starring Errol Flynn and Dean Stockwell. Spectacular adventure yarn, based on the novel by Rudyard Kipling. Directed by Victor Saville. (Coefax) (73830814)

### 10.00 The American Civil War

10.00 The American Civil War. The first of Ken Burn's acclaimed five-part history (revised) (s) (23589973)

### 11.40 British Touring Car Championship

11.40 British Touring Car Championship. Highlights from the 1994 season (9489802)



# Treasury and City agree on steady recovery

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN will continue to enjoy a virtuous combination of steady growth with low inflation in 1995, according to more than 40 economic forecasters tracked by the Treasury.

The average estimate for growth next year is 3.2 per cent for non-City forecasters and 3.3 per cent for City firms. This is in line with the Treasury's 3.25 per cent. There is also a strong consensus on the underlying inflation rate, with City and independent forecasters going for an average 2.6 per cent, the same as the Treasury's six wise men. The Treasury is somewhat more optimistic, however, looking for underlying inflation to be only 2.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of next year.

There is a broad measure of agreement over the shape of the recovery next year, with exports expected to continue to lead the way but the consumer

sector remaining weak as real disposable income growth remains low. This is regarded as very healthy for the sustainability of the recovery in the longer term but worrying for the Government, which will continue to look in vain for a vote-winning "feel-good" factor.

HSBC Markets said: "It's fast becoming a cliché to argue that the economic outlook for the next couple of years is the best for a generation, but it is true. Fast growth, low inflation, current account surplus, rising sterling — what more could the Government want? Popularity?"

Geoffrey Dicks, of NatWest Markets, said: "For the consumer, the unpalatable conclusion is that no early respite is in view. For the economy, the rebalancing in demand, which was hugely successful in 1994, has another year to run."

One welcome fruit of weak consumer spending and

strength in the economy's productive areas has been a dramatic improvement in Britain's trading position and this — with the caveat that many economists are wary of the accuracy of trade statistics — is expected to continue.

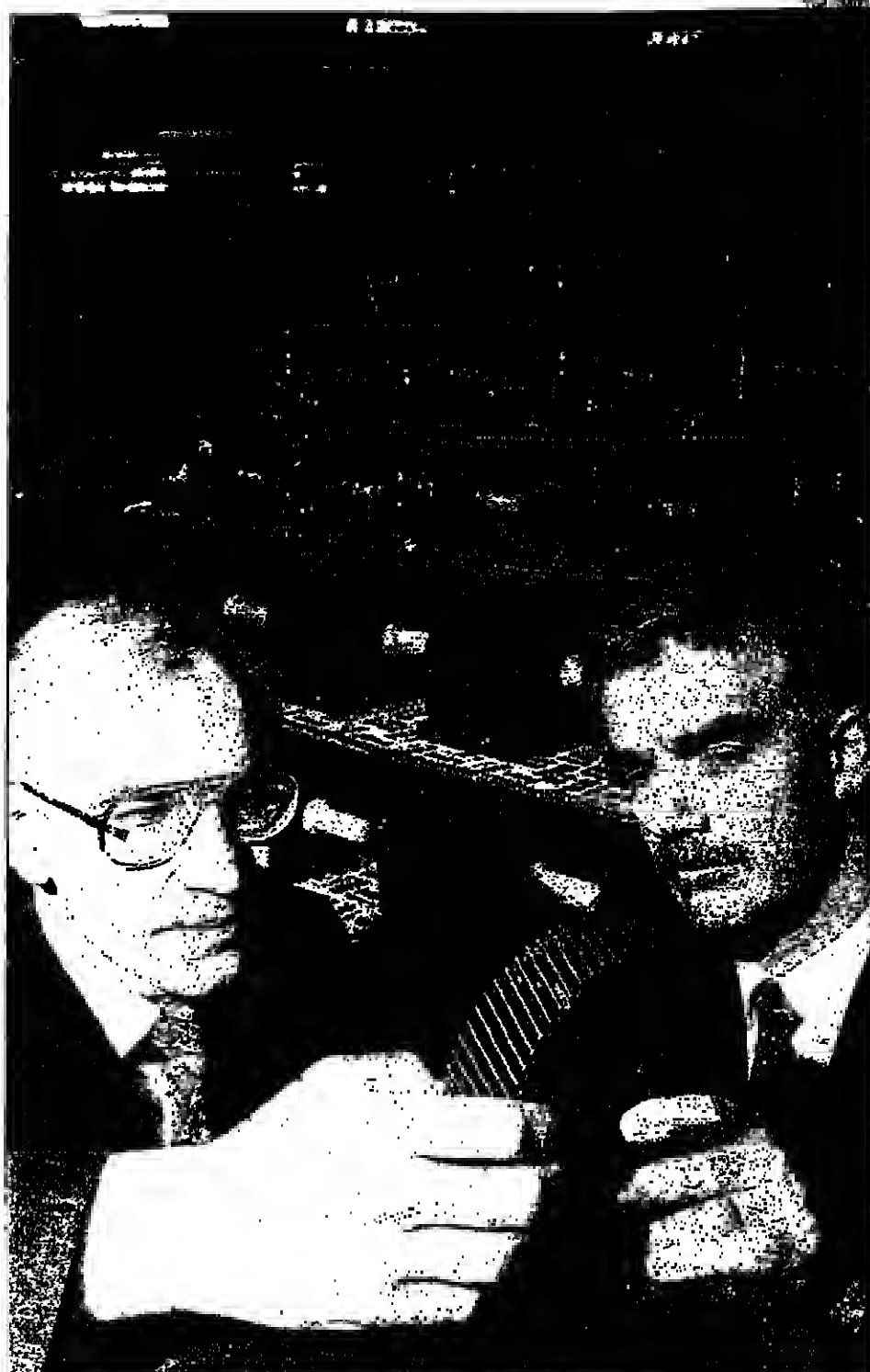
Forecasters and the Treasury widely agree that Britain's current account, which was in surplus for the first time for nearly eight years in the third quarter, will end 1994 with a deficit of only about £3.5 billion. Indeed, some City forecasters expect the current account to be in surplus for 1995 as a whole. HSBC Markets is looking for a surplus of £4 billion.

Exports are expected to grow by between 6 and 7 per cent while imports will expand by about 5 per cent. The consumer sector will remain weak, helping to limit the import penetration that has characterised British economic recoveries in the past. City and independent forecasters expect consumer spending to grow 2.3 per cent while the Treasury expects 2.5 per cent.

Real personal disposable income is expected to rise only 1.5 per cent, leaving a proportion of spending dependent on renewed borrowing and a fall in the savings ratio. This is by no means certain given the renewed rise in the savings ratio evident in the third quarter National Accounts figures published recently.

But there is also a broad consensus that tax cuts will be announced in the November 1995 Budget, which should help consumer demand to recover in 1996 and in the run-up to the election. The City, independent forecasters and the Treasury are very close in their estimates for the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement in 1995-96, with most forecasts clustered around the Treasury's own £21.5 billion.

Average forecasts for unemployment are for a headline total of about 2.2 million by the end of next year. But some of the City's monetarists — Tim Congdon of Lombard Street Research, David Smith of Williams de Broe and Peter Warburton of Robert Fleming — expect 2.4-2.6 million.



Chris Cook, left, joint chief executive of David Brown, the Huddersfield gear maker, and Chris Prideaux, managing director of Brown's Radicon subsidiary, announce a £40 million contract to supply Falk Corporation of America with geared motors

## Japanese banks slide on higher loan write-offs

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

JAPAN'S banks, struggling for years to cope with huge non-performing loans from the last property and stock market boom, are now taking bolder steps to count the cost.

Profits of 150 banks fell an average 17 per cent to 790 billion yen (£5.1 billion) in the six months to September 30, the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan said yesterday, as banks took bolder steps to write bad loans off their books. The writedowns totalled more than 2 billion yen, 70 per cent up on a year earlier.

Profit falls were much bigger among the country's biggest banks, which financed much of the boom. The country's 11 city banks saw profits tumble 40.7 per cent to 233 billion yen for the six months.

The news, part of the year-end sorting out before Japan's long New Year holiday, was greeted with relief rather than dismay. It indicates that the banking system has recovered sufficiently to take a more realistic attitude without endangering its solvency ratios.

There was little reaction on the Tokyo stock market yesterday, where futures buying helped shares rise for the second day. The Nikkei index rose 93.22 points (0.47 per cent) to 19,726.75 after a 1.51 per cent rise on Thursday. Friday was a holiday. The company trading year ends tomorrow.

More ammunition for trade tensions with America is likely when Japan's Fair Trade Commission takes further action against nine electronics firms, which have been accused of rigging bids to supply water utilities to share orders between them. Japanese newspapers say the anti-monopoly watchdog will shortly file criminal charges against firms and their executives. US trade negotiators have long accused Japanese industry of rigging contracts, particularly in the construction industry.

Japanese and American negotiators are to meet in London today in an attempt to restart talks on other bilateral trade issues, which have been stalled since September. They are likely to centre on cars and car parts, where there are long-standing US complaints, and the multimedia industry.

□ In Paris, one of the few European bourses open yesterday, the share index gained 0.9 per cent in thin trading.

## Insider dealing curbs imminent

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE Stock Exchange is to publish proposals to maintain orderly markets and to combat insider dealings next month, emphasising its tougher line on price-sensitive information leaking into the market.

This month the Exchange and the Takeover Panel forced the early announcement of three merger deals because of intense stock market speculation and unusually high volumes of trading. SG Warburg and Morgan Stanley partly attributed the collapse of their merger talks to their being forced into the glare of publicity.

A Warburg source said: "The dynamics change under the spotlight of the open market." Morgan Stanley felt that if it had been possible to continue "friendly" talks, agreement might have been reached.

The Exchange acted after 1.55 million shares were traded between 8.30am and 9.35am when it made the prices "indicative", so that market-makers did not have to deal at prices quoted on trading screens. That is one method by which the Exchange plans to signal to the market that an announcement is likely.

The increased use of such indicative pricing is expected to form part of the Exchange's orderly market rules. A similar technique was used when shares in Fortis, the security paper-maker, surged. Fortis then said it was in talks with De La Rue, and the two sides agreed a £672 million deal two weeks later.

The Takeover Panel forced Trafalgar House to signal its intention to bid for Northern Electric after Northern's share price had risen sharply.

## Pensions blow for part-timers

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TRADE union leaders are accusing the Government today of denying part-time workers a bonus in their pensions under a provision in the Government's Pensions Bill.

The Trades Union Congress has analysed the Government's proposed legislation to reform UK pensions law in the wake of the Maxwell pension scandal and the need to equalise pension ages, and it says that the move will have a major impact on the pensions of part-time employees.

Part-time workers believed they would be able to obtain pension entitlements for their previous work following a ruling by the European Court of Justice that they had suffered sex discrimination at work when they were prevented

from joining occupational pension schemes. The court ruled that employees should be able to join such schemes from April 1978. Business leaders are concerned about the cost of meeting such retrospective provision.

The TUC says that under Clause 59 of the Bill, which is due to receive its second reading in the Commons at the end of next month, the right to claim back pension rights has been limited to two years by incorporating pensions within Equal Pay Act procedures which have an automatic two-year limit.

The TUC says the measure was not mentioned by the Government when it announced the Bill. John Monks, the general secretary, said the clause had been "buried away" as a sneaky way of depriving part-timers of their rights.

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## Brokers take on direct insurers

By SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 300 independent insurance brokers have come together as shareholders in a new company that hopes to claw back business lost to direct insurance writers such as Direct Line.

Broker Direct, which already has ten insurance companies keen to raise partnership, plans to raise between £30 million and £60 million.

Andrew Paddick, Director-General of the Institute of Insurance Brokers, said Broker Direct is the response to a

sharp fall in the amount of business being conducted through brokers. Broker Direct believes its broker shareholders will give it a captive customer base of up to £500 million of business and that it can compete via lower costs and flexible commissions.

Mr Paddick said the company will start negotiations with prospective partners and other equity investors next month. Several international banks, ten insurance companies and a stockbroking

firm which could bring in institutional investors are already interested. He said: "We have been approached by some insurance companies who have direct operations in place but are in trouble. They have the premises and staff but not enough business. They could be possible partners."

Broker Direct expects to get DTI authorisation early in the new year and plans to start writing motor business in June and household insurance soon after.

## Merchant banks spread the pain of job cuts

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT



Sir Chips, no cuts

THE Christmas jobs massacre expected by staff at the City's merchant banks and securities houses has failed to materialise. Instead, there has been a steady trickle of job cuts as firms such as Goldman Sachs, SG Warburg, NatWest Markets and Yamaichi International have quietly responded to poor market conditions.

Ralph Grayson, a headhunter with NB Securities, said firms "have learnt their lesson from the last time when we had all those horror stories. Most know that the way to do it is by a steady and slow trickle." He predicted that they would continue to "trim round the edges" rather than cutting whole departments.

Yamaichi started its cull this month, in response to difficult market conditions. It is believed to have cut about 30 jobs, with redundancies spread across all departments.

Goldman shed 86 jobs in October and November, representing 5 per cent of its European workforce. In an attempt to play them down, the cuts were spread over several weeks. Staff are gloomy because a further 10 per cent of jobs, or around 900 worldwide, are to go early in the new year. The move is part of an attempt to reduce costs after volatile market conditions sent profits tumbling from about \$2.3 billion in 1993 to about \$550 million in the year to November 30.

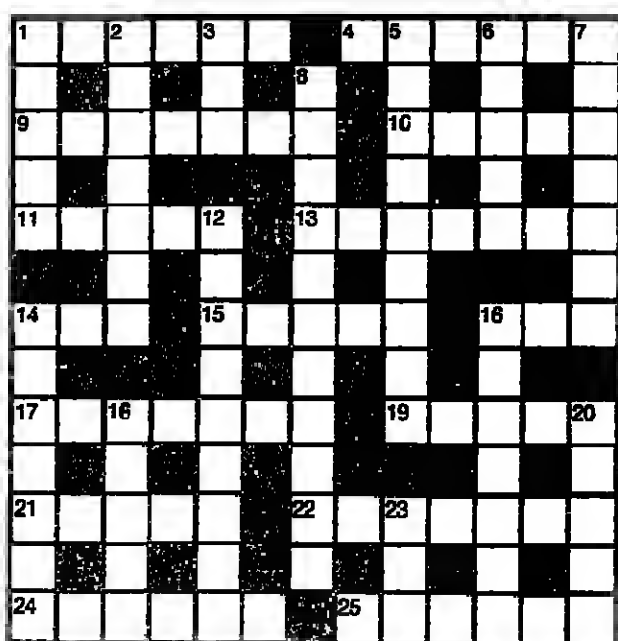
Goldman is following the example set by Lehman Brothers in its London office, implementing tight cost controls and targeting expenses as well as job numbers. A Lehman spokeswoman said the bank was not planning job cuts. Since January, its London head count has increased from 1,298 to 1,354.

Warburg is re-examining its costs and restructuring management after a fall in first half profits to the end of September, from £148.3 million to £62.5 million. Since then, ten equities jobs have been cut. The staff, who are already feeling sensitive after the collapse of merger talks with Morgan Stanley, face new year redundancies in the fixed-income division after the

appointment of David Burnett, a Warburg troubleshooter, as the new division head. The division, which has 400 staff, has been loss-making for the past nine months.

NatWest Markets cut 12 fixed-income jobs in its bond division last month. Some firms are refusing to make cuts despite falling profits. Sir Chips Keswick, deputy chairman of Hambros, said last month that there would be no staff cuts in the bond division.

The most positive news comes from Deutsche Bank and Morgan Grenfell, where recruitment is expected early next year as they attempt to build up an equities business in London.



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## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 354

### ACROSS

- 1 Rarely (6)
- 4 Be in profusion (6)
- 9 Bony, awkward (7)
- 10 King with golden touch (5)
- 11 Lead weight on line (5)
- 13 Jean Antoine —, French ro-coco painter (7)
- 14 Sound measurement unit (more often "dec") (3)
- 15 British person (after Swift) (5)
- 16 Tiny piece (3)
- 17 Of weddings (7)
- 19 Of sound (5)
- 21 Homeric epic (5)
- 22 God of the sea (7)
- 24 Decline (2,4): Oriental warehouse (6)

### SOLUTION TO NO 353

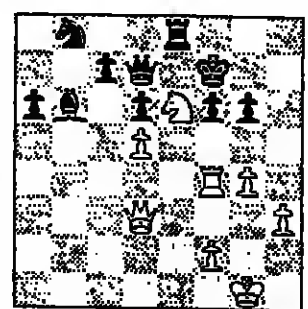
- ACROSS: 1 Shovel 5 Bald 8 Alto 9 Vaunting 10 Parallel 11 Brew 12 Plaque 14 Canute 16 Nova 18 Greenery 20 Instant 21 Glad 22 Germ 23 Rotten
- DOWN: 2 Holdall 3 Viola 4 Level pegging 5 Bath bun 6 Lance 7 Public sector 13 Quantum 15 Terrace 17 Ounce 19 Night

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Over the festive season, we are celebrating with positions from the games of Alexander Alekhine. This position is from the game Alekhine - Blaut, Antwerp 1923. White has sacrificed a piece and now breaks through the remaining black defences. Can you see how he continued?

Solution, page 30  
Raymond Keene, page 7



## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

### CLAVUS

- a. A witch's cloak
- b. A broken vase
- c. A pain in the forehead

### FARTHINGALE

- a. A small bird
- b. A high-pitched tune
- c. A wide-seated chair

### GROISE

- a. A stain
- b. A container for water
- c. A hard worker

### ANAGLYPTA

- a. Thick wallpaper
- b. A rocky surface
- c. A cloud formation

Answers on page 30

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